

J&K ahead of other States in implementation of PMUY: Zulfkar

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Tribal Affairs today said that State is proud to take lead over rest of the States in the country in implementation of Pradhan



Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister distributing free gas connections in Rajouri on Saturday.

Mantri Ujwala Yojana with 75 percent target achievement.

He informed that out of 4.90 lakh total eligible applicants, the Government has provided free LPG gas connections to 3.70 lakh BPL households in the State.

The Minister was speaking in a function organized by Indane Gas Agency Budhal for distribution of free gas connections at Koteranka. As many as

Jahangir reviews IPPI preparedness

Excelsior Correspondent

KUPWARA, Jan 13: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir, who is also the chairman of District Level Task Force

Committee, in a joint meeting of officers of different departments associated with the Intensifying of Plus Polio Immunization (IPPI) programme, reviewed the preparedness and arrangements put forth by the Health Department for first round of IPPI going to be conducted on January 28.

Chief Medical Officer, Kupwara, Dr Parled Singh briefed the DDC about the action plan and other related matters through detailed power point presentation under which the Health Department has made elaborate arrangements for IPPI in all 10 medical blocks of the district Kupwara for this purpose. 1,36,262 children up to age group of 5 years have been targeted for administering the PPI at 717 polio booths established with

Admin retrieves 1011 kanals land, starts fencing

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 13: District Administration, Rajouri today initiated fencing and development of 1011 kanals prime State land and Kahcharai land situated in close vicinity of town and prone to encroachments.

In a recent field inspection it was revealed that some unscrupulous elements have entered into conspiracy to sell State and Kahcharai land located near the town. A detailed inspection of records and assessment on ground was conducted following which process for protection of land was started.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Abdul Qayoom Mir, BDO Z A Kaifi, Tehsildar S D Chouhan, SHO Rajouri and a police contingent assisted by labour force initiated fencing of State land early morning at village Aiti which continued despite minor resistance.

A total of 1011 kanals land located in two Khasra numbers has been taken up for fencing and plantation. This includes land measuring 631 kanals in Khasra Number 261 of village Gurdan Paen and another stretch of 380 kanals situated in Khasra number 165 in village Aiti, both in close proximity of the town.

Officials said it was reliably learnt that a portion of land has been sold by some persons fol-

eral respiratory diseases/disorders.

Referring to a WHO report, the Minister expressed concern that smoke inhaled by women from unclean fuel is equivalent to burning 400 cigarettes in an hour and causes death of 5 lakh children and females across the country every year. He said the cent percent implementation of scheme will not only save many precious lives of females and children but relieve them from the drudgery of collecting firewood.

"In district Rajouri, free gas connections are provided to 22597 of total 25000 identified households as per socio-economic census. A supplementary list of left out BPL households will be provided by the district administration for coverage under the scheme," the Minister said.

While advising the beneficiaries to take utmost precautions and safety measures in utilizing gas for cooking purposes, the Minister also informed that in case of any mishap there is insured inbuilt insurance cover of Rs 6 lakh for death, Rs 2 lakh for house damage and medical claim up to Rs 30 lakh for treatment of injuries.

DDC Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, ADDC A S Chib, SSP Yougal Manhas, Dy. Legal Controller Manoj Prabhakar, XEn PHE Nisar Khan, XEn PDD Munshi Khan, Tehsildar Mohammad Rafiq, BDO Imtiaz Ahmad, AD FCS & CA Javaid Iqbal besides other officers of sub-divisional administration were present on the occasion.

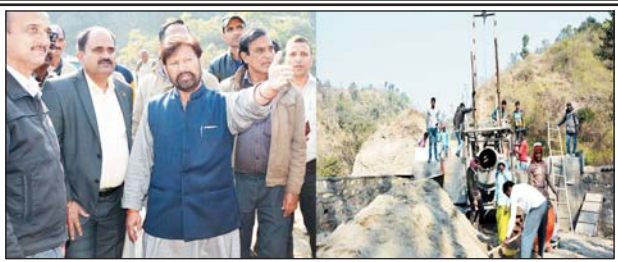
don't have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens or wander in unsafe areas for collecting firewood. He said the Government is endeavoring to zero down the dependence on firewood, coal, dung-cakes etc as primary source of cooking fuel because smoke from burning such fuels causes alarming household pollution and adversely affects the health of Women & children causing sev-

a man power of 2920 employees which include 1221 medical, 950 ASHAS, 675 ICDS workers, 74 NGOs and 52 mobile teams. Besides, 146 supervisory staff has been engaged for intensifying the programme at all block medical jurisdiction with other logical support like training to medical staff, transportation, required men and material for success of the campaign.

After seeking the valuable suggestions from the health experts and reviewing the presentation under District Action Plan, the Chairman of District Level Task Force Committee impressed upon the all stake holder to ensure 100% coverage of children up to 5 years age group as per the guide lines of the Government. He stressed upon the health officers to cover all 108636 houses in the district on ground, for which he said the district administration has constituted a team of officers to monitor the activities at different destinations, routes, entry points identified by the DTF, Kupwara. He sensitized the officers to mobilize the manpower, field functionaries to take the services to needy persons.

lowing which protection measures were initiated. Revenue Department has advised the general public not to enter into sale-purchase of land without valid title documents duly authenticated by the competent authority. A team of officials headed by BDO Z A Kaifi has taken up the fencing and plantation of this massive stretch of State and kahcharai land. The land will be developed as a community resource during the current financial year. Proposal has also been formulated for plantation of ornamental plants and development of Public Park.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary supervised the proceedings and informed that Revenue Department has been directed for a detailed exercise to identify such common and State land for protection and development. He also expressed satisfaction about widespread public support for anti-encroachment drive and added that a detailed process is followed for such action starting from inspection and scrutiny of records, adopting legal procedures and measures, planning development and other steps before initiating eviction, instead of knee-jerk overnight actions which required resource planning and time. He said that fencing process will be completed in next few days.



Forest Minister Lal Singh taking stock of developmental work in Basohli on Saturday.

Lal Singh conducts extensive tour of Basohli constituency

Excelsior Correspondent

BASOHLI, Jan 13: Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology, Choudhary Lal Singh today conducted extensive tour of Basohli constituency and laid foundation stone of several developmental works.

The Minister visited Jandore, Hote, Tridwan-Patyari, Hatali, Raswo, Sowla, Dharnore, Dhana, Basantpur, Thein and Domer villages and laid foundation stone of around 23 works, mostly maintenance of lanes and construction of drains.

Choudhary Lal also laid foundation stone of upgradation of playing ground at Sowla village, which would be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh.

The Minister said that State Government has taken several concrete measures to create durable infrastructure to upgrade the living standard of the rural pockets.

Lal Singh said that concerted efforts are being made to develop Basohli constituency on modern lines with basic amenities like better road connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, healthcare facilities and better education infrastructure.

The Minister also met with several deputations on the occa-

sions who apprised him of their demands pertaining to upgradation of roads, lanes and drains, regular supply of drinking water, supply of ration as per scale fixed by the Government.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to solve the genuine demands of the people at the earliest so that they do not face any inconvenience.

Lal Singh asserted that three regions of the State have witnessed massive development in all spheres during the current regime and said that the Government is duty bound to provide all basic amenities to the people of the State.

He said that Government is fully aware of people's development related problems, adding that in this regard concerted steps are underway to meet all developmental needs particularly in rural and far-off areas of the State.

The Minister asked the officers to take up area specific projects in district to meet the aspirations of the people and ensure modern basic facilities.

Choudhary Lal Singh underlined the need for involvement of public representatives in execution of development works to ensure tangible results on ground.



Aslam Waterbird census team at Gharana Wetland.

Wildlife starts census of Wetlands in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: The Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of J&K, is leading this census at various wetlands of J&K.

Presently joint teams of Department of Wildlife Protection Government of J&K in collaboration with WWF-India, Wetlands International, J&K Birdlife and prominent civil society bird watchers are conducting census to record waterbirds at key wetlands of Jammu.

This survey is part of the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and is being led by Dr. V S Senthil Kumar, Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu. The AWC is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC).

This is one of the unique citizen science programme which is supporting conservation and management of wetlands and water birds worldwide. During the AWC at Gharana, 53 species of waterbirds were recorded. These included hundreds of Bar-headed Goose, Shovallers, Black-headed Ibis, Ruff, Bittern, Grey Heron and Pintails.

While giving details about AWC activities in J&K, Manoj Pant, Chief Wildlife Warden,

Children of displaced families given education assistance scholarships, insurance cover

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 13: District Administration, Rajouri provided educational assistance and financial help / scholarships to 29 students studying in various classes and belonging to various displaced families. Educational assistance plan approved by district administration has sponsored the educational expenses of displaced children.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary along with DSWO Dr Abdul Khair, Dy Registrar Cooperatives Waqar Talib, DIO Shafait Ahmed, Superintendent ITI Ujwal Mahajan, Tehsildar S D Chouhan, Naib Tehsildar and other officers handed over the educational assistance and scholarships to children of families displaced due to removal of structures for re-development in Rajouri.

The educational assistance plan has covered the educational expenses of all the children studying in various Government and private educational institutions. School bags, books, stationery and cash assistance in shape of scholarship were provided to them.

Students studying in Degree College were provided assistance of Rs 10,000, while those studying in Higher Secondary Schools and High Schools were provided Rs 5000 each. Similarly, students in Middle and primary classes were provided assistance of Rs 4000 each and pre-primary students Rs 3000 each. Books of various



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Shahid Iqbal Choudhary giving stationery to students on Saturday.

classes as per CBSE and NCERT syllabus were provided apart from stationery for full year, school bags and other required items.

Meanwhile, each of students has been provided an insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for a period of years. Apart from that insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh has also been extended to head of each family and female heads for a period of 5 years. Insurance involves Rs 2 lakh compensation in case of death or permanent disability and Rs one lakh in case of recoverable loss of limbs or eye-sight. Premium for 5 years has been paid by the district administration. Profile of

all the students has also been generated for special scholarships. The displaced families were also handed over possession of alternate land as per the rehabilitation scheme.

Deputy Commissioner and other senior officers held detailed interaction with displaced families regarding further steps for rehabilitation and special focus on education of children. Pertinently all displaced families were provided alternate accommodation, ration and other basic requirements apart from cash assistance of Rs 25,000. Housing scheme has also been approved for these families.

Stop caste based reservation quota in country: GCPF

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: The General Category People's Forum (GCPF), Jammu (Unit) has appealed the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring an end to caste based reservation quota which is weakening the roots of our strong nation or get ready to face country wide agitation from general categories in coming days.

Addressing a meeting of the Forum members, president of GCPF, Yash Paul Sharma said that discrimination on the basis of caste, religion and region is a shame and is an act of human rights violation. This system has spoiled basics of democracy and further weakening our country. Initially, it was done only for ten years by Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and now it is being extended every time by our politicians for the sake of losing their vote bank. The time has come to undo this political and historic blunder, which deprived a larger section of society of their fundamental rights.

He warned that the attitude of political class and its act of promoting casteism and communalism, and sacrificing national interest for the lust of power would be serious ramifications. Sharma strongly demanded bringing end to the caste based reservation, quota, special privi-

leges and concessions as their continuation is violation of Article 14 of Indian Constitution.

Raj Kumar Banathia, Chairman of the Forum accused the Government of pursuing the politics of caste, religion and region which is detrimental to the unity and brotherhood. He said that communal amity, harmony, equality, justice and dignity have been the hall mark of the Forum. He said the time has come to do away with this caste based quota and provide fair justice to youth of all the communities.

Som Nath Sharma, secretary general of the Forum alleged that Governments snatch out of the poor's pockets of the other communities and providing concessions and privileges to the rich through reservation which is inhuman. He appealed the Government to take concrete steps to bring an end to the political corruption and nepotism and sought removal of corrupt ministers and bureaucrats. He also sought implementation of Singhal Committee Report.

Prominent among others who also spoke on the occasion included V K Sharma & Bhushan Pargal - vice presidents, Deepak Khajuria -secretary, K K Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Capt Tulsi Dass Sharma, Raghubir Singh, Madan Lal and Ravi Kumar also spoke on the occasion.

MLA Chenani inaugurates culvert

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 13: MLA Chenani Dina Nath Bhagat today inaugurated a culvert and 63 kva transformer at village Sauntha of Chenani constituency.

The culvert constructed over local nallah has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 3 lakh while as Rs 6 lakh has been expended on the installation of transformer. Speaking on the occasion, MLA said that the transformer has been upgraded in view of repeated local demands and frequent power issues in the area, saying that its installation would improve power supply in the area. He said that provision of uninterrupted power supply to people is the priority, adding that the present Government has launched various schemes for augmentation and improvement of power infrastructure in the State particularly in rural areas. DDUGJY has been launched to provide electricity to un-electrified habitations of the State, he added.

Highlighting initiatives taken by the Government for development of hilly and backward areas, the MLA said that the State Government with the liberal funding from Union Government has started micro and mega projects with special focus on strengthening power infrastructure, upgrading road communication network and provision of safe drinking water to people.

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