

Sham seeks Panchayats' cooperation for proper maintenance of WSS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma inaugurated Water Supply Scheme under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) at Chak Lalu Shah, Domana here today.

MLA Raipur Domana, Bharat Bhushan was also present on the occasion.

Addressing a large public gathering, Sham said this Water Supply Scheme will benefit 5000 souls of village Chak Lalu Shah, Ganesh Chak, Surhe Chak, Rambagh and Gujjar Basti. He said that Central and State Governments have sanctioned a number of PHE schemes to provide safe drinking water to every citizen of the State particularly of remote areas and those which have not been covered yet.

Sham said that safe drinking water is not only helpful in arresting water borne diseases but also ensures a healthy life. He said that present Government is fully committed to provide basic amenities like safe drinking water, power, road, health and education to every nook and corner of the State particularly uncovered areas.

He sought cooperation from the Panchayat representatives in proper maintenance of Water Supply Schemes as well as irrigation facilities. He emphasized upon the people for judicious use of water to save them from any water crisis. He also directed the concerned agencies to make efforts for preservation of the traditional water resources and revival of the old ponds to further enhance water levels. He also stressed upon the need of constructing more and more check dams.

The Minister was informed that presently a number of Water Supply Schemes in Raipur Domana constituency including WSS Machine Domana, Chak Lalu Shah, Khesi, Thater, Purkhoo, Chibba Chak Machillion and Raipur Domana (Slippage) are being executed under NRDWP with an estimated cost of Rs.1646.64 lakh.

Responding to the demands of Sarpanchs and Panchs of concerned areas, the Minister directed the concerned officers to take necessary action to sort out all their issues.

Chief Engineer, PHE, K K Gupta, Chief Engineer, I&FC, Varinder Badyal, SE Hydraulic, Rajeev Malhotra, Ex-Engineer of PHE, I&FC besides Sarpanchs and Panchs of the areas were also present on the occasion.

Later, the Minister visited his constituency to take stock of damage caused to small bridge near Girls Middle School Kotli Tanda and WSS Dug Well Tanda. He also visited the Sangani Khad and took stock of damage caused to bridge connecting Mera Mandra due to recent heavy rains and flood in the local nallahs. He instructed the PWD and RDD to immediately take up necessary steps to restore the damaged structure and other related works.

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Among others present were Omjee Bhat, Sanjay Dhattatreya, national coordinator, Ashok Dilber, PN Dhar and Raja Jee Ticku, organising secretary.

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Regional imbalances danger to unity of State: Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: Former Union Minister and MLA, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta today attacked ruling leaders of the Congress as also of the National Conference (NC) for discriminating with Jammu and Ladakh regions. He termed such regional imbalances a danger to the unity of the State and against the interest of the country.

Reacting over the statements of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and some others about the creation of Telangana in wake of agitation, Prof Gupta said that such like unrest is an obvious corollary.

He pointed out that Jammu and Ladakh were always maltreated. "This was established even in various reports on regional disparities including Gajandhar Gadkar Commission as far back as about 45 years now", he said, adding little remedial measures were taken but the discrimination in various spheres like political representation, services, developmental

activities, allotment of funds etc, is still continuing.

Gupta asserted that the root cause for this discrimination lies in the denial of due political representation to Jammu and pointed out that despite having almost double the area and equal population, Jammu has been given just two Lok Sabha and 37 Assembly seats as against three Lok Sabha and 43 Assembly seats to Valley of Kashmir.

Questioning the sincerity of the ruling leaders, Prof Gupta said that they should explain that why fair delimitation of the constituencies was always denied and an embargo has been put through a constitutional amendment unlike other parts of the country that there would be no delimitation till 2026.

The former MP also recalled that Congress in their election manifestos itself had promised to bring a legislation to ensure fair delimitation of the Constituencies but it is regrettable that despite expiry of more than 10 years now, they did not keep up their promise.

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—Excelsior/Rakesh

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SS Ghuman, Commandant, 160 Bn CRPF, lighting the traditional lamp during inaugural function of Sainik Sammelan at Jammu.

160 CRPF Battalion celebrates Raising Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: A special Sainik Sammelan was organized by 160 Battalion, CRPF, Channi Rama, on its Raising Day. The function was organized and chaired by Unit Commandant, SS Ghuman at Unit Headquarters.

All the officers and jawans along with their family members participated in the Sammelan.

Earlier, the Commandant took salute at Quarter Guard and then lit the traditional lamp to give a go ahead to the programme.

Addressing the officers and jawans, Commandant said that

the Unit was raised at GC, Mokamaghat, CRPF (Bihar) under the command of Commandant, Taj Mohammad and after the successful completion of the basic training, the Battalion was deployed in J&K.

Speaking about the role of the Battalion, Ghuman said that the Unit has played main role in peace keeping in highly affected militant areas of the State.

Recently, the Unit had recovered many sophisticated weapons and explosives from Kharimanjoos (Ramban) in a joint operation with the State police. He said that unit is fully capable in maintaining peace in the State.

A sports programme was also organized and the consolation prizes were distributed to the winners by the Commandant.

Thereafter, various cultural programmes were organized by the jawans, which were enjoyed by all.

FCI employees hold protest

JAMMU, Aug 2: The food grains handling operations were suspended for around two hours, as all the employees of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) working in different godowns held protest demonstration at their respective working places.

Addressing the employees, union leaders said that Area Manager Jammu had issued an order directing the field staff not to visit DO Jammu without prior notice.

They warned the management to withdraw the office order issued by Area Manager terming the same as insult to all working class. Employees are visiting DO for official work and also for sorting their personal grievances.

The unions unanimously decided that if the aforesaid order will not be withdrawn as well as pending overtime payments of new godown Jammu staff will not be released before August 7, then on August 8 lunch hour demonstration will be held in front of the office of FCI, DO Jammu.

The gathering was addressed by RL Sharma, Chamail Singh Chib, Surinder Kumar Sharma, Joginder Singh Chib, Bhanu Partap, Amarjit Singh, Joginder Singh, Sharif Hussain and Balbir Singh.

DB modifies death sentence to life-imprisonment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: Division Bench of State High Court comprising Justice Hasnain Massodi and Justice Janak Raj Kotwal has upheld the conviction of one Mohd Yousuf Shah, son of Abdul Gani Shah of Nowabad, Bathindi. However, the DB converted the death sentence into life-imprisonment.

According to the prosecution case, Mohd Yousuf on March 12, 2003 called Owaise Rashid, deceased, into his house at Bathindi and committed sodomy with him. Later, he strangled Owaise. The accused was caught by the police when he along with Mohd Saleem Khan and Sohan Lal was shifting the dead body to an isolated place in a minibus.

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PK to review strategy for separate homeland at all levels

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JAMMU, Aug 2: Panun Kashmir (PK) will soon convene all India meeting of its advisory body to review its strategy for intensifying the struggle of separate homeland at all levels.

This was stated by Dr Agnishekhar, convener, PK during a press conference here today.

He said that in the meeting, host of experts, political scientists, historians, sociologists, constitutional luminaries, eminent writers,

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