

## Another PHE scam

Another case of embezzlement has come to light. The 1980 Water Supply Scheme for the Chanapora-Zabgulla area of Budgam district, then mooted at a cost of 1.46 crore rupees and later on enhanced to 6.23 crore rupees, remains on paper only. On the ground, except for laying a few supply pipes nothing exists. This contrivance has been the brainchild of officials and contractors with vested interest. For three consecutive years the authorities were told that the project had been completed. It is a classical example of hoodwinking and misleading. Only when the elected representatives raised hue and cry did the authorities move and then began deep probing into the case. Usual norms of seeing the case through various layers of enquiries took its time and now the Minister in charge of PHE Department has ordered detailed enquiry into the case and fixing of responsibility. How come those officials involved in the scandal could mislead the District Development Board for three consecutive years? How come that the protestations of the elected representatives made no impact for three years? This is unexplainable. While officials have been greasing their palms, people in the said area have been thirsting for drinking water. This is a sordid state of affairs and unless the culprits are brought to book the situation may not improve.

## Mobile Courts

Aggrieved issue towards which the 13th Finance Commission diverted its attention was that of delivery of justice and the judicial structure in the State. As we know, there is extraordinary pendency of lawsuits in our courts from the lowest to the highest level. This is a nationwide phenomenon and not anything special to our State. Among other things, the 13th Finance Commission had recommended that new 28 courts be opened in J&K that would function in morning and evening and support justice delivery system. There were other recommendations also like the increased timing of the courts.

It will be reminded that the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir took steps to streamline the process of justice by filling the vacancies of judges in the High Court and also by directing that vacancies in lower courts are also filled. The purpose was to reduce the number of pending cases in these courts. He has been also monitoring the progress in reducing the number of pending cases. The recommendation of 13th Finance Commission was also aimed at the same purpose. The State Government had reservations about accepting the recommendation of the Finance Commission of opening Morning and Evening Courts. According to it's thinking, it involved security aspect and the Government was not prepared to take any risks. However alternatively it suggested that these should be converted into 14 each of Mobile Magistrates and Special Mobile Magistrates courts.

In the first place it is a moot point whether the State Government is right in demanding that these Morning and Evening Courts should be converted into Mobile Magistrates' Courts. The Government has been claiming that the situation in the State has returned to normalcy. Why then should not Morning and Evening Courts be opened? Anyway, that is not the point we would like to focus on. It is three years that the Central Government authorized the State to go ahead with its reformed plan and identify the locations where the mobile courts would function.

Since the High Court has now identified the locations, the Government should see that there is no further delay and the courts are created with all facilities as early as possible so as to boost the justice delivery system.

## Changing contours of Indian politics

Col J P Singh, Retd

General election, if not advanced, is still far away. Nevertheless the contours of the coming contest are becoming apparent. Main contest is going to be between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP for which the process of electioneering has commenced vigorously. Narendra Modi of the BJP and Rahul Gandhi of the Congress are emerging as the main contender for the top post even though their parties have not declared them as prime ministerial candidates. Hence the contest is becoming more or less bipolar because the regional parties which at one time harboured the idea of revival of third front / formation of a Federal Front have given up the hope after Natish Kumar suddenly slipped into the Congress lap. Hence they have also reconciled to the bipolar reckoning waiting to play their politics after the election outcome. There is no regional party which can muster that large number of Lok Sabha seats, not even in UP, that it will be able to galvanise the formation of the third front or federal front govt at the centre. During the Nehru - Gandhi era we had almost unipolar contests, which later became multipolar and this time Indian politics is inching towards a bipolar contest at the national level.

When Congress goes hammer and tongs against Modi to make him a hate figure, in run up to the general election, he too has taken up the cudgels against the Congress. Hence every time Modi makes a statement, Congress spokespersons and ministers get jittery, call him names, over react to his statements and denounce him as divisive. Similarly when Congressmen speak against Modi, BJP reacts violently. That initiates a vigorous media debate. Of late Rahul Gandhi has instructed Congress leaders to take his clearance before debating against Modi. If that happens, BJP should also hold its horses to allow a clean election campaign debating issues on which the elections should be fought. Every day when I wake up,

my heart beats for our motherland which is being vandalized and victimised. Durga Shakti is punished for challenging the might of sand mafia and doing her duty sincerely. Durga's fate is a familiar tale. Ashok Khemka was punished for foiling illegal Vadra land deals in Haryana and in Jaisalmer a SP is transferred for reopening criminal case of Congress MLA's father. Like Khemka before Durga, bureaucrats with honesty and integrity will continue to suffer for not toeing the line of corrupt and criminal politicians. These events make it clear that honest and upright officers are being hounded out from investigating and law enforcing duties. It discourages talented young people joining civil services. As a law abiding senior citizen, I feels helpless. What will be the fate of an ordinary Indian when the govt officials are being outrageously treated by the politicians. I wonder whether or not people sense the rot and give a clear verdict in favour of those politicians who respect the law of the land and assist bureaucracy in serving the public. Let those politician win the election who can win the confidence of masses and under their leadership India wins back its glorious past, moves forward with genuine democracy, clean politics and good governance.

Since the formation of UPA II, Congress is on the decline. It is weaker in its one time strongest citadel Andhra because of its bifurcation and earlier split in the party. It is hardly there in UP, BIHAR, Orissa and in Tamil Nadu despite piggy backing the DMK. It is demoralised in Gujarat due to successive election defeats and decimated in Chattisgarh after Maoist attack. There is a credible incumbency against the UPA. Public is disillusioned with its performance. Bifurcation of Andhra has initiated a Domino's effect leading to mass agitations in Assam and West Bengal. Demand for other earlier states is going to rise thereby effecting Congress prospects in those areas in the coming election. BJP is also on the decline after corruption charges against Yedduurappa came to light leading to his parting of ways and alliance split

with JD(U). The third front / the federal front continues to be a non starter.

There are 350 seats in Hindi heartland where both the national parties have reckonable following. Hence they will be hotly contested by both besides the regional players. It is in these seats where the voters have to decide which party they want to lead the next coalition Government in the centre and whom they want to be their Prime Minister. Agenda of some of the regional parties is to prevent Modi's entry in South Block whereas for some it is to unseat Congress from the centre even if it involves compromising their ideologies. CPM and the JD(U) are openly against Modi whereas the others have not opened their cards as yet. But it is clear that Mayawati and Mulayam will be in different camps and so will DMK and AIADMK. Trinamool Congress, TRS, TDP and Jagan Reddy may not go with the Congress amalgam as of now. Rest of the regional players will go with the larger grouping.

Modi's campaign focus is on development. He is wooing voters with this mantra. Modi's main narrative is UPA's poor performance and disappointing record due to mega scams, rising inflation, blatant misgovernance, rampant corruption, insecurity and policy paralysis, apart from occasional references to its burqa clad secularism. These issues are catching the public imagination. Anna Hazare's fast unto death for Lokpal Bill and against corruption has shown us that Government can be brought to the knees by the public. This movement pitched public against the UPA Government. The Government succumbed. It assured early passage of the bill and promised reforms but failed to catch the threads where from the agitation left. This also goes against the Government. Therefore Modi's scathing criticism of the govt for its failure on all fronts wins him public platitudes which cringes Congress.

Rahul had started with lot of hope and promise but lost the plot somewhere enroute. He was always missing or mute during serious national crises. Rahul

has been focusing on youth vote bank and a placidly anxious electorate without offering them promising future. He led election campaigns in UP and Bihar but failed to deliver. Modi is addressing angry and restless middle class voter, also the younger lots, who blame the Congress for killing India's growth story. Modi is concentrating on contemporary society nurturing high hopes and aspiration that conventional leaders have not addressed. Modi is seen as no nonsense politician and a doer. He is expected to create a winning atmosphere for the BJP. He is being seen who can propel India to a new growth trajectory. After years of despair, once again there is renewed hope, a hope of change. If BJP gamble is right and its trump card works, Modi would not just win 2014 election but should structurally reorder Indian politics and ensure that not the BJP but India wins. If Rahul wins, the status quo may continue and changes, if any, may be slow because of Sonia Gandhi's presence and controls.

We had opinion polls in the past suggesting that mandate 2014 will be fractured. The larger message is deepening despair of the voter with the ruling UPA and the alternative NDA. The big picture appears to be suggesting that while the Congress is tainted by scams and declining growth, no body seems to be sure that the conventional BJP will be any better alternative. That is sort of sentiment which is working on the mind of the voters. They are looking for an alternative. Hence the personalities are wooing them more than the parties and emerging as alternative. The coming contest seems to be veering around the American Presidential type of contest where Rahul or Modi will matter more than the Congress or the BJP. Contest between Rahul and Modi, both popular and acceptable among masses, will form such pattern in India. There is an opportunity to choose. Now it for the people to decide who is good for us. It is for the political parties to understand the popular aspirations which are staring at their faces.

## Breast Feeding is the Best

Dr. K. Parameswaran

This year's theme is "Breast Feeding support - Close to mothers". Breast feeding support should be close to mothers, says the Breast Feeding promotion Network of India, because information and support are crucial to the practice of optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). That means, to practice proper breast feeding, the mother and the child should come as close as possible and they must be assured of personal and equipped support.

Here is a parable that illustrates the significance of breast feeding and good child health practices.

The King and Queen of a country, though enveloped in wealth and luxury, were extremely saddened because of the lack of a male heir to the royal lineage. After a few years of married life, they were blessed with a baby boy. The country erupted in celebrations that lasted for more than a month. The King honored all the rishis and scholars of the country; besides, he announced life long, free education and health care for all the children born on the same day as the royal heir! All the courtiers were awarded lavish bonuses and their families were invited to the most sumptuous feasts that lasted more than a week.

The scene shifts to some months later. The royal court was in session. The court itself was the last word in pomp and luxury. Even the pillars of the hall were decorated with jewels of myriad colours, it seemed! The hall itself was interspersed with servants holding large feather fans, on which were tastefully painted with natural colours, various scenes from the valiant life of the King! Outside, on both sides of the magnificent entrance to the hall, stood majestic, caparisoned elephants, swaying to the rhythm of glorious nadaswaram music, being played by the most senior and talented artists of the country! !!

The King was seated in his royal throne; the queen was seated on a smaller throne, placed beside the King's seat of power. Beside them, on a shining cradle, lay the prince. The faces of both the king and the queen were pale and drawn. They were not even conversing with each other. Tension and worry were palpably written on their royal visages.

The problem was that the royal prince had not exhibited any of the land marks of healthy growth like attempting to sit, stand or toddle. He had completed seven months recently. The King had called all his courtiers and they were asked to suggest ways and means out of this quandary.

They, in their turn, suggested seeking the advice of various doctors. Some, who rushed in on hearing the royal writ, were quacks of doubtful reputation; some were clearly hacks, only after money! A few followed the ayurvedic system, while others were votaries of the homeopathic system. There were a few who insisted on the natural way to health. Each contradicted the other, while the King, in his sadness and irritation, contradicted every one!

This continued for quite a few days, with no change in the health condition of the prince. Then, it so happened, that one of the senior courtiers chanced to meet up with a revered old sanyasin who was reputed to have solved various problems of very tricky nature. The courtier invited the sanyasin to the royal court.

He bowed before the King, smiled benevolently at the queen and then bend down to examine the prince. The little prince was lying, turned to one side, breathing very shallowly. He was very pale and there was almost no flesh on the body.

The sanyasin straightened up and looked at their Royal Highnesses with intense eyes which mirrored deep understanding. Then he took out some holy ash from the intricately carved silver box he held in his hand, spread it on his palm and blew over it with great force. The hall seemed to reverberate with the sound of the sage's breath. The ashes flew hither and thither. But a considerable part fell on to a spot near the royal throne.

Lo behold, from the ashes arose a handsome boy of may be four or five years age. The boy smiled engagingly, bowed before the King and started talking in a sweet and attention grabbing voice. He explained all the basic health precautions that the pregnant mother should take; the importance of feeding the new born child with the mother's first milk; the significance of periodically weighing the child and ensuring that all the land marks of growth are achieved within the specific time frame etc. WHO and UNICEF, both have recommended early initiation of breast feeding within one hour of birth and exclusive breast feeding till the child is six months old. While early initiation reduces newborn mortality, exclusive breast feeding is the best way to be insulated against childhood gastro intestinal infections.

Adults who were breastfed are as babies less likely to be overweight. Children and adolescents who have been breastfed perform better in intelligence tests. Breastfeeding also contributes to the health and well-being of mothers - it reduces the risk of ovarian and breast cancer and helps space pregnancies.

Recognizing the critical importance of nutrition for health and development the WHO has approved a plan that stipulates for 50% of babies all over the world should be exclusively breast fed by 2025. At present only 38% babies are being reared only on breast milk. WHO strongly believes that breast feeding is a public health initiative.

## NFSM moving towards progress

Dr.M.P.Gupta

In order to meet increasing food demand for growing population, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in August 2007 to increase production and productivity of cereal crops like rice, wheat and pulses on sustainable basis for food security of the nation. It is to be achieved through pragmatic approach to bridge the production gaps by the adoption of improved technology and management practices.

**Target**  
NFSM was launched in 166 districts of 22 States to increase Rice production to 10 million tons (Year 2011-12), Wheat production to 8 million tons and Pulses to 2 million tons. In achieving this target, it was proposed to cover 20 million ha area under rice, 13 million ha area under wheat, 4.5 million ha area under pulses. For this purpose, 50% subsidy will be given on all farmers' activities.

**NFSM in J&K**  
NFSM was introduced in J&K State in 2011-12 with an outlay of Rs.3.59 crore covering six districts namely: Jammu, Samba, Kathua both for rice and wheat where as Udhampur, Leh and Kargil for Wheat only. Further, Rs.14.17 crore has been allocated for wheat promotion alone for the year 2012-13. \*Looking into the present Area and Production Status of Rice, Wheat, Pulses in Jammu Province, Kashmir Province and the State as a whole, it is worth mentioning that per Ha produc-

tion of these major crops is well below the national average, especially the average yield which has declined in the recent years and bridging the production gap in Rice and Wheat through Rice-wheat cropping system is the main objective of the National Food Security Mission.

\*Food deficiency has increased to 36% (2012) and is further expected to rise to 41% by 2014 and to 50% by 2025 which poses a great challenge. \*Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) has been satisfactory in the recent years (i) Rice-24.78% (ii) Wheat -29.77%.

In this backdrop, it is imperative to bridge the yield gap through scientific interventions so as to ensure the success of Food Security Mission for which all initiatives are being undertaken by GOI. It will be in place to mention that Convergence of different Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be encouraged which in a way is going to supplement and complement each other to cover more people and more area.

**Components of NFSM**  
System of Rice Intensification (SRI) will serve as important intervention to increase rice production, besides Direct Seeded Rice and Line Transplanting has to be encouraged. SRI, its components has vital significance over conventional system of rice farming and calls for more emphasis on the development strategies for the implementation of "System of



rice intensification" in J&K. The distinctive features of SRI are as under:

**a) Transplanting:** In SRI, a single seedling is transplanted per hill at a wider spacing and the hills are also spaced more widely than usual, thus reducing the density of seedlings needed for planting. This system helps to reduce requirement of seeds from 80-90%

**b) Seedlings for SRI:** SRI system uses the much younger seedlings (8-14 days old) compared to 3 to 4 weeks old seedlings in the traditional system. Transplantation of young seedlings at shallow depth of water results in quick recovery besides establishment and production of more effective tillers & profuse growth of roots.

**c) Planting:** Planting is generally done in squares to facilitate the use of a weeder of a particular width; if the spacing in one direction is greater it will take longer to cover the space in between or it will not be proper-

ly covered. A minimum width is required in both directions and thus a square is optimal.

**d) Irrigation:** In SRI there is no need to keep the field flooded with water; it is enough to keep the soil moist. This it reduces 25-50% of irrigation.

**e) Weed Control:** Special aspect of the SRI method is to use a hand operated weeder to disturb and churn the soil between the rows.

**Training:** Season long trainings are being conducted in four sessions of four hours duration each i.e. in the beginning of kharif, during kharif & rabi and at the end of rabi. The modern training curriculum is developed and discussed with state consultant before finalization for training program.

**Technical Support:** With the appointment of staff in the project, NFSM work has been geared up. The technical assistant(s) under the guidance of their respective consultant are to document all the information

pertaining NFSM-District and will also provide technical support in the successful execution of the project. Such information will also be furnished to State technical assistant for further compilation at the State level. To begin with, Base-line survey of the District has been conducted by using prescribed Performa; SWOT analysis will be employed to determine strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation with cereal crops i.e. Rice-Wheat in the Districts. The district-wise data regarding above crops in terms of Area, Production, Productivity from 2006-07 to 2012-13 will be collected and analyzed to determine the growth trend. The production gaps and extension strategies will be identified for intensification of crops. Impact/case studies will be conducted to study the input-output, outcome and impact growth of the project. Besides success stories will be developed of NFSM-Districts.

Lastly, above information will also be used to bring out booklets on wheat scenario and rice scenario of Districts under NFSM to serve as ready reference for future course of action to boost food production in the State.

**Achievements under NFSM**  
In the first quarter of 2013-14, the following achievements have been made in NFSM-districts:  
**Jammu:** As regard Cluster Demonstration, out of 1000 ha area 957 ha area has been covered successfully under System of Rice Intensification (SRI),

Direct Seeded Rice and Line Transplanting. Further use of micro nutrients (Zinc sulphate) and distribution of Cono Weeder, rotator tiller and knap sack sprayer are under process.

**Samba:** In achieving target of Cluster Demonstration (2013-14), 200 ha area has been covered under SRI, Hybrid Rice, Mechanical Transplanting and Line Sowing. Besides, distribution of Micronutrients, Gypsum and construction of Water Harvesting Structures are under process.

**Udhampur:** Under demonstration programme, use of new varieties is being promoted. Out of 100 ha only 91.25 ha of area was achieved under Cluster Demonstration. Further, 8 ha and 3.5 ha was covered under Direct Seeded Rice and SRI. Use of herbicides and fungicides is under process.

**Kathua:** About 1st session training and Cluster Demonstration, 400 ha area has been covered successfully out of which 5 ha was covered under SRI and 100 ha covered under Hybrid Rice & rest under Direct seeded.

During current year, it is proposed to organize 500 farmers' trainings and cluster demonstrations over an area of 12300 ha in 6 NFSM-Districts of J&K State namely Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Leh and Kargil, which in turn will certainly help to increase food production and decrease in present food deficiency (36%), besides serve as road-map to usher agriculture prosperity in the State.

## Readers Write

### Rural posting of doctors

Sir,  
This has reference to the article 'Rural posting of doctors' DE Aug 6. The article has touched many aspects concerning rural posting of doctors in the country. The issue in question is quite important and needs to be given a serious thought by the planners. No adhoc arrangements can solve this problem as it is related to 70 percent of Indian population which lives in rural areas.

The reason that doctors keen on pursuing a post graduate degree should have one year rural posting compulsory does not hold much water. It would be unreasonable to put such a condition on candidates willing to go post graduation. Rather, candidates who have already done post graduation and have been employed by the Government should be deputed to serve in rural areas.

The doctor shall have no reservation to serve in the far flung areas. If Government creates necessary infrastructure in these areas. The medical students have been demanding that they are ready to serve in these areas throughout their lives if permanent posts are created in rural areas.

The doctors employed under NRHM plan feel insecure as there is no job security. Once doctors are assured that they will have permanent jobs, they will work whole heartedly in these areas.

Yours etc....  
Sonam Wangyal  
Leh

### Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

Sir,  
Refer news item 'Govt plans to set up 500 new Kendriya Vidyalayas' DE Aug 6.

These schools should be opened in rural areas than urban areas. Most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas at present are located in urban centres of the country. They cater to the needs of people who already have access to modern educational institutions-public and private. While there is no such facility for poor people of rural areas. The standard of education is far below in rural areas as compared to urban centres. The schools located in rural areas suffer on account of infrastructure and staff. These schools do not even have arrangements for computer education, what to say of smart classes which have become a craze in city schools.

It will be of great help to students community if Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened in rural areas. Kendriya Vidyalayas are known throughout the country for their educational standards.

Yours etc....  
Balbir Singh  
Shakti Nagar, Jammu

### Misuse of red beacon

Sir,  
The Supreme Court has rightly termed the use of red beacon and siren by VIPs a menace to society. The red beacon has become a status symbol with power and arrogance.

There are people who are enjoying this facility at the cost of State exchequer, without bothering its impact on common man.

This issue had been brought to notice of powers that be through electronic and print media in the past. But it did not make impact on the Government(s).

When the issue has now come into Supreme Court domain and it has passed order vis-a-vis its use, one expects that the Government(s) act as per its direction.

Those who use it wrongly should be dealt according to law of land, and only those who face security threat should be provided this facility.

Yours etc....  
Om Prakash Sharma  
Jammu

### Release 3rd instalment

Sir,  
The 3rd instalment of the 6th Pay Commission, which has been due since April 2013 to the employees and the pensioners should be released immediately. The Govt authorities are therefore requested to adhere to their commitment made with the limited income group of the society, the employees pensioners who are creamy layer of our society.

The Govt is requested to respect the genuine feelings of the employees and try their best to listen and act accordingly.

Yours etc....  
S.C. Gupta  
Publicity Secretary  
Distt. Pensioners Ass.  
Udhampur