



Minister for CAPD Ch Mohd Ramzan chairing a meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

Ramzan reviews power, water, ration supply in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: Emphasizing close liaison between Power Development (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Departments to cope up with hot weather condition in Jammu division, Minister for CAPD and Transport, Ch. Mohammad Ramzan, asked the officers to further streamline their working and ensure proper maintenance of public utilities.

The Minister said this while chairing a high level meeting of senior officers convened to review the functioning of PDD, PHE, CA&PD, Police, JMC, JDA and other services departments, here today.

The Minister, who is here to attend the Summer Secretariat, reviewed in detail the stock and supply position of ration in the region.

Ramzan asked the Director, CA&PD to make sure that ration is distributed among the people, particularly in the

earthquake affected areas of erstwhile Doda district. In this regard, he called for holding regular inspection of the sale depots to monitor supply of essential commodities besides keeping a check on black-marketing.

Reviewing the power and water supply scenario, the Minister asked PDD to mobilize the field staff to check illegal connections and unwanted power load to avoid inconvenience to the people due to breakdowns. He called for maintaining extra vigil to thwart the misuse of power.

It was informed in the meeting that several innovative measures have been taken to reduce unscheduled power curtailment and voltage fluctuations.

The Minister was informed that to cater to the need of potable water scarce areas adequate number of water tankers have been pressed into service in the region.

The Minister also took stock of law and order situation in the division besides

taking stock of arrangements made by the civil administration for comfortable stay of Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims.

The Minister also reviewed functioning of Legal Metrology Department of Jammu province besides taking stock of availability of LPG and price control.

The Joint Controller Legal Metrology apprised the Minister that a sum of Rs 88.66 lakh has been realized by the department against target of Rs 90 lakh and Rs 24.29 lakh have been recovered as compounds money from the defaulters in the financial year 2012-13.

It was further informed that apart from the work of certification of weighing & measuring instruments to maintain the traceability, the department is actively enforcing mandatory declaration on the pre packed commodities like MRP, PKD, Net Weight, address of manufacturer as well as consumer helpline number on all the packaged goods so that in case of any grievances the consumer can also approach the manufacturer for redressal of the complaint.

The State Level Co-ordinator of Indian Oil Company informed the Minister that 100% home delivery is being made in city towns and as per instructions this service has been started in town areas of district Samba, Udhampur, Rajouri & Kathua.

Ramzan instructed all the officers of Oil Companies to immediately implement the provisions of Legal Metrology Act and Rules made there under which is enforceable by July 1, 2013, by providing 50 Kg weighing instruments to all the delivery boys of LPG, so that the consumers can weigh the cylinders as per their satisfaction. He instructed that all the consumers of the town areas of every district must be catered with home delivery as per the already conveyed date of 30th June which has expired.



Som Nath Vice President PHE Employees Association Jammu province addressing PHE employees rally at Udhampur on Tuesday.

PHE employees hold protest demonstration

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 2: Expressing serious concern over about 20,000 workers of PHE Department having been without wages for the past one and a half year, provincial vice president of PHE Employees Association, Som Nath appealed the Government to immediately release the meager wages of the workers which have not been paid to them since long.

Som Nath was addressing a largely attended protest dharna of the association at PHE Complex here in which employees and workers drawn from Kud, Patnitop, Chenani, Jaganoo, Barta, Manwal, Mansar, Khoon, Majalta, Krimchi, Battal Ballian, Garhi Rehmbal, Tikri and other areas participated and raised slogans in support of their demands.

The speakers in the meeting said that in place of mitigating the sufferings of the workers, the authorities were out to eliminate the workers. The Minister concerned was appealed to frame clear cut policy for the department so that workers may not suffer any more, otherwise it would become difficult for them to ruin the system without wages.

Other demands highlighted in the meeting pertained to filling up all the vacant posts to run water supply smoothly; Holding of DPC meeting at an earliest as no financial burden was involved and the same was not conducted for the past 18 years; Change of designation as per nature of job being performed; and Conversion of all imprest, Estimate workers and land donors as daily wagers, the formal orders for which were still awaited despite completion of all formalities.

They also demanded enhancement in wages as a private labour is getting Rs 300 per day.

Appealing the Government to fulfill all the demands of the workers, Som Nath said the workers would be compelled to go in for undeclared strike.

Others who spoke in the meeting included Vijay Kumar, Rattan Singh, Suraj Parkash, Jagdish Magotra, Subash Chander, Baldev Raj, Krishan

PDP committed to Anantnag-Kishtwar road tunnel: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: Expressing the resolve of her party to carry forward the connectivity plan, it had initiated during its brief tenure in the Govt, People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti today said the tunnel to provide a round the year road connectivity between Anantnag & Kishtwar would be executed on priority.

Addressing an impressive public meeting at Wadhwan, she said the failure of present Govt to implement the program had resulted in continued distress for the large population residing in the area. "Madhwa and Wadhwan deserve all weather road connectivity and PDP would ensure that it is achieved on a fast track," she said, adding unless inter-regional connectivity and access to far-off areas was ensured, the dream of developing a modern State would remain unachievable.

Mehbooba said it was unfortunate that the area has only been offered lip service by successive Governments including the present one to

garner the votes of its residents, but except the PDP-led coalition, no meaningful intervention had been made to bring changes in the lives of the people of this far-flung area.

She said, PDP Government granted the tehsil status to Madhwa and (Niabat) to Wadhwan to address administrative problems. Similarly, new educational institutions were established and many existing ones were upgraded, she added.

Stressing the need for creating productive jobs for the residents of these backward areas, Mehbooba said it was unfortunate that the pony owners of Sai Nallah area have been disengaged from Amarnath yatra; this has robbed the people there of the only avenue of earning some wages. She assured the people that she would take up the matter with Governor and press for the rights of these pony wallas.

Senior leader and MLC, Syed Asgar Ali called upon the people to strengthen the PDP at all levels, to ensure peace, stability and development in the backward area.

Yet another pilgrim from Jammu reported missing in Kedarnath

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: Yet another pilgrim from Jammu region who had gone for the yatra of Kedarnath is reported missing in Uttarakhand after the recent cloud burst and flash floods in Kedar Ghati.

Sanjeet Singh, son of Pishori Lal of Mohalla, tehsil

and district Doda had left his home on June 8 for pilgrimage of Kedarnath along with his two associates Srikant and Rajesh of Gandoh. While the two pilgrims reported back but the Sanjeet's whereabouts are still not known.

According to his elder brother Labi Ram Sanjeet had performed darshan at holy shrine on June 16 and had reached Rambara on June 17 the day when the cloud burst and flash floods lashed the Kedar Ghati and since then his whereabouts are not known.

The family members of Sanjeet also alleged that no steps were taken by J&K Government in locating the missing persons from the State. As with Sanjeet so far four people from the Jammu region are reported missing from Kedarnath. Earlier a couple from Sarwal and their relative from Akhnoor were reported to be missing from Kedarnath.

People aware about machinations of divisive forces: Rather

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: Saying that the present coalition Government has set into motion a golden era of development, the Minister for Finance and Ladakh Affairs today said that coming years will be a turnaround in socio-economic transformation of the State.

"An unprecedented era of development and peace has dawned in the State during the current dispensation under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah", Mr. Rather said while addressing a public gathering at Tulsibag in Srinagar today.

He said every possible resource is being mobilized and pooled to provide basic facilities to the people with focus on equitable opportunities of development and uniform justice to poor and backward areas. He said Government is abreast with the problems of the people and no stone will be left unturned to redress their grievances.

Mr. Rather said provision of responsive, accountable and transparent governance is one of the top priority of the Government, adding that landmark laws including RTI, PSGA and Vigilance Commission have been enacted by the present Government for this purpose. "Enactment of these laws is sequel to Government efforts to provide corruption free governance to the

people", Mr. Rather added and asked the people to avail benefits of these laws. He said 69 services have been brought under the ambit of PSGA.

Referring to the un-employment problem, the Minister said all possible means are being explored to create job avenues in both public and private sectors. He said there are about 6.50 lakh registered educated un-employed youth in the State and Government has already fast tracked recruitment process to fill up existing vacancies in different departments. Besides, SKEW-PY, entrepreneurship development and skill upgradation training programmes have been launched to enable youth set up their income generating units for dignified livelihood under self-employment programme.

Mr. Rather said, in view of the primary importance of road connectivity in socio-economic transformation of the society, the

Government has undertaken a massive programme to construct roads and bridges in nook and corner of the State. "Now each and every village having a population of above 250 souls will essentially be connected with road network under PMGSY", Mr. Rather added.

The Finance Minister cautioned the people about the forces inimical to peace adding that some defeated elements in order to satiate their vested interests are hell bent to vitiate the atmosphere of peace by raising frivolous issues. "But they will never succeed in their nefarious designs because the people are aware about their machination and double standards. They have neither any agenda nor any mass base and rely only on politics of lie and deceit. He said no body will be allowed to disturb the peace as the people of the State are yearning for peace and development.



Dr Jitendra Singh examining patients at a diabetes camp organized by Indian Red Cross Society at Jammu on Tuesday.

Diabetes spreading among youngsters : Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: Rapid spread of diabetes across the country with its prevalence in J&K also crossing 15 to 16% and with more and more youngsters falling in its trap, it has become imperative to do blood test screening for presence of diabetes in each and every individual particularly in those belonging to high risk groups and from families with a positive history of diabetes.

This was stated by renowned Diabetologist & National Professor of Diabetes, Dr. Jitendra Singh during a Diabetes awareness programme and detection camp organized here today by Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with Diabetes Care Foundation (DSF), a registered NGO.

Over 200 patients were examined by Dr. Jitendra Singh

and about 25 new cases of diabetes were detected. Free medicine was also distributed. Prominent among those present at the camp included Anil Padha, Chairman Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, Dr. Kavita, Medical Officer at Indian Red Cross and Varun Malhotra DCF activist.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that changing life style and junk food culture have taken its toll and in spite of new modalities of treatment available, the disease has assumed epidemic proportions.

During the next couple of years, he said, the main focus would be on diabetes in young and diabetes in pregnancy because while during young age diabetes adversely affects the youth potential at the prime of age, in pregnancy there is risk of adverse outcomes both for mother as well as the child.

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