

Scheme will entail losses worth several crores J&K says no to Food Security, gives reservations to Centre

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 25: Anticipating heavy losses on account of subsidy, the State Government has categorically ruled out implementation of much publicized scheme of the Congress led UPA Government on Food Security for which the Centre had taken the Ordinance route on July 5, which had subsequently been approved by President Pranab Mukherjee the next day.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi had directed all Congress ruled States to implement Food Security Scheme in their States by the middle of August.

Though Congress is a major partner in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led National Conference-Congress coalition Government, the State has categorically said no to the Food Security Ordinance that would guarantee 5 kilograms of food grains per head every month to 67 per cent of the population or

25 kg of food grains per household, which is lower than the 35-kg entitlement mandated by the Supreme Court and the calorie requirement recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Official sources confirmed to the Excelsior that on account of heavy losses the State would face for implementing the draft ordinance, it has decided not to implement it in the State.

"We have given our recommendations, observations and reservations to the Government of India. We have stated clearly that we wouldn't be in a position to implement the Food Security Ordinance as it would amount to losses running into several of crores on account of subsidy the State would have to pay for implementation of the scheme," sources said.

Noting that the State Government has expressed reservations on implementation of the Government of India scheme till its population as per 2011 census was taken into account and the State compensated for the losses on account

of subsidy, sources said the Government was also in process of working out exact losses it would suffer if it had to implement the scheme.

Moreover, they pointed out, the Food Security Scheme is only an Ordinance so far, which many Southern and other States have refused to implement citing various reasons. "Various Governments have objected to the scheme," they said, adding the Ordinance had to go to Parliament to take the shape of an Act that too wouldn't be binding on Jammu and Kashmir as it had to pass its own law in the Legislature.

Sources disclosed that the Government was getting ration under Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) on the basis of 99 lakh souls only on the basis of even pre-2001 census while as per 2011 census, the State has population of 1.25 crore souls. "We are already suffering huge losses due to delay by the Centre in updating our record. We can't bear more burden by implementing Food Security Ordinance," they said.

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8 major, 101 minor bridges, 2 Fly-Overs proposed Jammu Ring Road to cost Rs 1100 crores

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, July 25: State Government officials in league with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) have initiated the preliminary work for construction of Ring Road around Jammu city. While the total Capital Cost of the project is estimated to be around Rs 1100 crores, the approximate length of the proposed four/six lane Ring Road would be around 58 Kilometers.

Sources told EXCELSIOR that the Consultancy Services for preparation of Feasibility cum Design Report for the Construction of Standalone Ring Road/ Bypass road around the Jammu city had been assigned to Louis Berge Consulting Private Limited.

As per the Report prepared by the Consultants, "the preliminary study of the secondary data collected revealed that the western bypass shall start from Km 86 (Raya Morh) of NH-1A and end at Km 14.70 of Nagrota bypass realignment at NH-1A. Later, the proposed Ring Road would become part of the NH-

1A.", says the report prepared by the Consultants.

The Report added, "The length of the proposed bypass/Ring Road would be 57.80 Km. The terrain along the project is plain upto 46.50 Km and hilly from thereon till 57.8 Km. The Project road passes through tehils of Samba, Jammu, R S Pura and Bishnah. The proposed road width is 60 meters in plain section and 45 meters in hill section.

Sources in NHAI also confirmed, "there will be eight major bridges and 101 minor bridges and 308 culverts in the project road. Besides, in the four-laning of the project road, two Fly-Overs, five vehicular underpasses and eight pedestrian underpasses have been proposed. The project road is crossing Nikki Tawi River and Wadi Tawi River and around 42 seasonal streams and nallahs".

"While the capital cost of the project is Rs 1100 crores, the estimated cost for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of affected persons, utilities will cost nearly Rs 150 crores. The budget earmarked for environment man-

agement and monitoring is approximately Rs 6.5 crores", sources added.

The project also proposed to have two Toll Plaza at different locations --- one near Bishnah village and another one near Kangar village along the project road. About 55 private structures, seven utilities, one religious building and two Government structures are likely to be affected due to proposed bypass. Nearly 3300 families are likely to be affected with the project and they shall be compensated as per the NHAI Act, 1956.

While classifying the project as linear green field project, the report states that the Ring Road would touch 44 villages along or near project road, which included Dear Ghanotra, Rakh Badoi, Najwal, Ratnal, Avtar, Tinday, Nouran, Bansultan Anandpur, Mangu Chak, Lalyal, Kalian, Haripur Alora, Gandu Chak, Suhanjana, Bhagatpura Bazigar Basti, Chak Laldin, Shahpur, Tikri Rakwalan, Choana Chak, Ratanpur Paras Harmukand Flora, Karloop, Gujjar Basti Marh Bagh, kullain, Tokrian,

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Model wearing Azva 22 karat gold bridal jewellery as hair piece at the Rina Dhaka show during India Bridal Fashion Week, in New Delhi. (UNI)

Curfew continues in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 25: The indefinite curfew in parts of Budgam district of central Kashmir imposed on Tuesday evening that continued today has restored calm in the area after worst sectarian clashes during which over 25 houses were set ablaze and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed.

Police, CRPF and Army continued to be deployed in the affected areas to maintain peace and calm in the sensitive area of the dis-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

HC directs action against DC ST

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 25: The State High Court today issued show cause notice to Deputy Commissioner Sales Tax and directed action be taken against him for allowing construction of two hotels illegally at Drang, Gulmarg in North Kashmir when he was Chief

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Aggarwal empanelled as Joint Secy

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 25: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs today ordered empanelment of nine IPS officers of 1986 batch in the rank of Joint Secretary or equivalent in the Government of India.

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Day long searches in Sunderbani

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 25: Army and police today conducted day long searches at forward villages of Baysian in Baja Bain area and Thanger in Sunderbani tehsil of Rajouri district after civilians told security personnel that they had observed movement of armed mil-

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NHRC seeks report on Gool incident

NEW DELHI, July 25:

The NHRC today asked the Centre and the Jammu-Kashmir police to submit a report on the incident of firing at Gool in Ramban district in the State that left four persons dead.

Taking suo motu cognisance, the National Human Rights Commission has asked the Union Home Secretary and the Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir to file the report within

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Chinese troops make fresh incursion bid

LEH/NEW DELHI, July 25:

Close on the heels of over a dozen incursions since the face off in Ladakh in April from across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese troops made a fresh attempt to violate the International Border at Chumar area in North-East of Leh on July 20 but were forced back by Indian troops.

The 'assertive posturing' by the Chinese troops, who had climbed a small mountain where they faced Indian troops, has been flashed to all units along the Sino-India border in the area

4 new SHOs posted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 25: Authorities today ordered transfer and posting of four SHOs including SHO Gool, which had witnessed protests after killings of four civilians and injuries to 42 others on July 18.

Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad, SHO Kishtwar has been transferred and posted as SHO Gool in Ramban district.

Inspector Deepak Pathania has been posted as new SHO Kishtwar.

Inspector Mahroof Ahmad will be new SHO Gandoh police station in Doda district in place of Inspector Ghulam Nabi Mir, who is retiring.

Inspector Pushpinder Singh has been posted as SHO Thathri police station vice Inspector Rouf Ahmad.

to keep a strict vigil on their movement, official sources said today.

Chinese troops claimed it was their territory and they were headed towards Tible area, five kilometres deep into the Indian territory.

Chumar, which is located 300 kms from Leh, is the last town after which Himachal Pradesh starts. This area also has the distinction of having a defined International Border with China.

Chinese troops, who were confronted almost bang on the border by alert Army and ITBP troops, said they needed to follow the orders PLA headquarters and conduct some photography in Tible area.

However, after a usual face-off drill, the Chinese troops who had to walk down a long stretch to reach Chumar, sought assistance in getting some food as they had run out of their stock, the sources said.

While no food was provided as the troops did not carry it with them, some cans of juices were given to the PLA soldiers, the sources said, adding the Chinese troops then retreated into their area.

All Indian units located along the LAC have been asked to maintain a tight vigil in their Area of Responsibilities (AoR) and launch frequent patrols to the higher reaches, the sources said.

Chumar has seen a number of incursion incidents in the recent past including an incident

NEW DELHI, July 25:

The BSF report into the firing incident at Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir, in which four people were killed, has said its personnel, along with State police, had to fire as the mob was running down the camp of the para-military force.

Submitting its initial report on the incident to the Union Home Ministry, the BSF said its troops were "forced" and "compelled" to fire in accordance of the "standard operating procedures" laid down for the safety of

personnel and the "weapons", official sources said.

It said the troops had fired in self-defence to save its men and weapons. The BSF has already ordered a Staff Court of Inquiry into the incident but has not named any individual, the sources said.

The report has been prepared by Special Director General of BSF Dilip Trivedi who had visited the spot after the July 18 incident.

The report contains annexures explaining the versions of both paramilitary and State police personnel and has also

appended photographs of the spot. The BSF is guarding the railway line being laid in this area.

The report has stated that the firing was done both by the BSF and the State police. The latest inquiry has also found that the earlier version sent by its Jammu frontier was correct.

The BSF denied charges of sacrilege as claimed by the locals and said 25-year-old Mohammed Latif had made these baseless allegations against the personnel as he was stopped and questioned about his presence in the area.

It claimed the man ran into a

religious place and made an announcement on loudspeakers claiming that BSF personnel had committed sacrilege prompting a crowd of around 400-500 persons outside the BSF post Dharam.

Four people were killed and 44 injured in the violent incident that led the force as well as police to fire at the mob.

The State Government has also launched a magisterial inquiry into the incident and the local police have detained the station incharge Sub Inspector Afzal Wani till their investigations in the case were over. (PTI)

'No sacrilege in Gool, charges baseless' Troops fired in self defence: BSF report

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Stone pelters turned cops play vital role in curbing unrest

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 25: "Around 1000 youth mostly stone pelters who were recruited in Jammu and Kashmir Police after 2010 summer unrest played a major role in curbing the street protests in Kashmir valley following hanging of Parliament attack convict Mohammad Afzal Guru in February this year", a senior police officer said here.

The police officer told Excelsior that the Jammu and Kashmir Police Cadets at Manigam Police Training School in the Central Kashmir district of Ganderbal were pulled out of the training college soon after the execution of Afzal Guru in February this year and deployed at worst affected areas of Kashmir valley.

"These cadets mixed with the

protesters in various areas of Kashmir valley especially in downtown area of old Srinagar city and helped police in nabbing the stone pelters and curbing the unrest", the police official said.

"Since most of them were the stone pelters in 2008, 2009 and 2010 summer unrest, they had all the knowledge about the stone pelters and their tactics. We utilised their services and coupled with other measures we controlled the unrest in the aftermath of Guru's execution in a record time", the officer disclosed.

The police officer while lauding their role and justifying their recruitment in police said that they did a good and commendable work after the execution of Guru in containing the unrest.

The State Government launched an on-the-spot recruitment drive in police department

in 2011 in various parts of Srinagar city and other worst affect parts Kashmir valley due to stone-pelting. Around 1000 youth, mostly stone pelters were recruited in police to curb the menace of stone pelting in 2011 and provide job opportunities for these youth who were resorting to stone pelting.

The main objective of the on the spot recruitment drive was to increase the representation of the youth of Srinagar city in police so that they can deal with the unrest in their respective localities effectively.

The officer said that involvement of local youth in handling the law and order is working wonders and Government this year has been able to contain law and order problems effectively particularly in the areas where these youth were drawn.

However, these cadets who

were drawn from stone pelters went on rampage last month in PTS Manigam Ganderbal over the delay in the conduct of their passing out parade, a ceremonial induction in the regular police force. The incident raised questions about their recruitment in police force.

The officer while commenting on the rampage by the cadets said that it was an act of indiscipline that cannot be tolerated. "A departmental inquiry is going on into the incident of the rampage", he said.

The officer while hinting at the lenient view of the department over the rampage, said: "We will also have to look at the factor of inordinate delay in conduct of their passing out parade. They should have been out of the training school six months before the incident took place."

Show cause notice to PDD Secy over delay in payment of penalty

J&K gets rap on knuckles from CERC for non-compliance of order

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 25: The Power Development Department, which always remain in the oblivion until the situation turns worst, has received rap on the knuckles from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for its failure to comply with the latter's order despite repeated reminders.

Now, the Commission has issued show cause notice to the Secretary of the Department to explain as to why action under Electricity Act be not taken against him and the department.

As per Clause (4) of the Regulation 10 of Unscheduled

Interchange Charges and Related Matters, Regulations, 2009 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, all the regional entities, which had any time during the previous financial year failed to make payment of UI charges, are required to open a Letter of Credit equal to 110% of its average payable weekly UI liability in the previous financial year.

Such Letter of Credit is to be opened in favour of the concerned Regional Load Dispatch Centre within a fortnight from the date these regulations came into force.

It is pertinent to mention here that UI is a pool account and the states over-drawing from the grid in deviation of

their schedule are required to pay the prescribed UI rates to the UI pool account and the states under-drawing from the grid or the generators, which have been injecting into the grid, shall get payment from the UI pool account at the prescribed rate.

Since the UI Regulations came into force on May 3, 2010, the Power Development Department of State Government was required to open Letter of Credit by May 17, 2010. However, the PDD authorities remained in oblivion for quite long time and failed to ensure compliance, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

Accordingly, the CERC in its order dated December 1, 2011

observed, "as J&K has failed to comply with the provisions of the UI Regulations, the Power Development Department of the State and its Secretary are directed to show cause by December 20, 2011 as to why appropriate actions under Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003 should not be taken against them for non-compliance of the provisions of 10(4) of the UI Regulations".

Much to the surprise of the CERC, Jammu and Kashmir neither filed any reply nor anybody from the State appeared in person or through advocate. Taking serious note of this, the CERC vide its

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* Atrocious traffic police ...Page 8	KASHMIR Possibility of light rain/thundershowers. TEMPERATURE Max: 29.3 Degree C Min: 16.2 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 68.0 per cent Lowest: 45.0 per cent
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