

## Muddled monitoring mechanism

Development is a comprehensive programme in which more than one ministry or organization is required to make solid contribution. Development has to be all-sided and uniform so that a definite level of improvement in life is attained systematically. It is carried out only after some hard exercise of planning is done at the level of experts and professionals. This is the task, which Union Ministries in our country are required to do. They plan for the entire country and then reach each state with its proposals of development.

For the second time, the Union Rural Development Minister had to caution the State Government against its failure to implement the conditions of various Centrally sponsored schemes for rural development. Any centrally sponsored development plan is usually accompanied by a set of guidelines and instructions, which need to be implemented. Once the Union Ministry of Rural Development accords sanction to any scheme for implementation in the State, the recipient State is bound to respect the guidelines.

The point taken up by the Union Rural Development Minister is that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir was required to constitute vigilance and monitoring mechanism that would periodically report the progress in the implementation of its schemes sanctioned under various programmes. The State Department of Rural Development was required to constitute monitoring committees at State and district levels, which would be meeting quarterly, and reporting on the progress of these schemes. The Minister in charge of Rural Department would be the chairman of State level V&M Committee while an MP would be chairing the District level committee. There seems good purpose in constituting the committees with responsible persons to chair their meetings.

State Government has not taken the guidelines seriously and the question of constituting vigilance and monitoring committees remains muddled. It has to be remembered that most of the Central ministries floating developmental programmes under their sponsorship only after full consideration of the schemes in hand and discussing the possibilities of their implementation in the states. The guidelines thus proposed are meant to facilitate the State Governments in implementing the projects properly and to the maximum utility. Government's failure to introduce the monitoring mechanism has no justification and if the donor agency threatens to stop funding for the projects and schemes under its contemplation, it is justified. That is a loss not to the State and its people.

The Union Minister of Rural Development has to make a personal appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene in the matter and regularize the vigilance and monitoring mechanism in the State for the schemes sponsored by the Union RD Ministry. We are aware that Chief Minister has taken a leading role in strengthening vigilance and monitoring of administration and development schemes in the State. In fact he has taken a big step in this direction by initiating formulation of various mechanisms aimed at bringing all sided development to the grass root level. It appears there are some bottlenecks in the Department of Rural Development, which are obstructing full implementation of the guidelines of Union RD Ministry. Constituting aforementioned committees is not a complicated matter that would take long time or need some special exercise. These committees are not meant only to monitor the progress of the schemes but also to become feeders to other departments that are connected with the development of the State. In particular, we would like to bring to mind that constituting of the said committees is a strong instrument of empowering people's representatives under Panchayati Raj scheme. Don't forget that rural India is real India and eighty per cent of our population lives in rural areas. It will be found that the Union RD Ministry floats maximum developmental projects to benefit the rural population in the country and the State. Monitoring the schemes has become essential in view of past experience. It is possible that under Panchayati Raj system, rural developmental schemes and projects will not be allowed to go astray and become unproductive. On spot watch prevents drifting of schemes towards wrong direction. It is this apprehension, which a Vigilance and Monitoring mechanism has to prevent.

In final analysis, we hope that the Chief Minister will not only direct the concerned at the RD Department to respond to the instructions of the Union RD Ministry but will also go into the story why RD Department failed to fulfill the conditions till a stage came when the Union RD Minister had to request personal intervention of the CM in the matter. There will be no justification for the State Government to ask for funds and schemes from the central authorities if it is not able to fulfill the pre-requisites of a scheme it is asking for. The loss will be of the people of the State. We cannot afford that.

## Matter of pride

It is indeed a matter of national pride that Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been named the world's second best airport in the 25-40 million passengers category by the Airport Council International. The airport also has been adjudged as the fourth best in the world among 199 airports across all categories. It will be reminded that IGIA has been constructed by Indian engineers and planners and has not been copied or borrowed from anywhere. This achievement is a pat on the shoulders of our planners and engineers. Our country has the expertise of high order in this branch and Indian airport builders have been rendering service in foreign countries also in the construction of their airports. While congratulating them heartily for this national achievement, we expect them to further improve their expertise and not remain content with this achievement only. There are still many fields to be covered and many heights to be scaled. Besides, the State Government should take all necessary steps for removing bottlenecks in expansion of Jammu airport. More efforts are also required for improving facilities provided to visitors at present.

# Power outages

## A perennial problem

P K Mam

We, continue to grope with the power shortage problem in summer to the hilt which eventually puts the people to enormous hardship. This is despite state being bestowed with ample reservoir of water bodies by way of rivers flowing in this mountainous region. Unfortunately, the lack of farsightedness by those at the helm of affairs at different times for not prioritizing power sector is the main reason for failure to fully explore and exploit natural resources while framing policies and plans to people's advantage. In fact, the demand for uninterrupted and quality power supply to people remained a casualty always, because of dependence of solution to problem more on "RAIN GOD", non-seriousness of issue and even by people who failed to exert pressure for initiation of concrete measures-but preferred to suffer silently. Moreover, certain class of people manage not ever to feel pinch of misery on this account due to reasons known to everybody.

This summer, as we have witnessed, the common man, as usual, is led to face untold suffering for want of regular power supply. Unscheduled power cuts, low voltage, frequent fluctuations and breakdown are a matter of routine which has even rendered use of electric gadgets at houses for relief dysfunctional. Unfortunately, power cut (even if it may not be) remains an alibi for other departments to disrupt water supply for

domestic use at several colonies without schedule for prolonged hours and days which make hell on the lives of common man. (Tail end located houses are worst sufferers). Over all the impact is such that we prefer to discourage to invite or receive a friend or relative who intends to visit us, even in need due to hardship being experienced because of power shortage problem. We are not sure that lights will come or not or on turning taps will water come or won't! We live with problem of



stress, strain, waste time and energy by making repeated enquires on power cuts/ water supply because of insensitivity to common man's woes in the given system.

### COMMON MAN'S SUGGESTIONS :

- \* Take up the matter forcefully with Center to make available adequate resources viz. expert technical services, man power and financial support to overcome

impediments for generation and transmission & distribution of power to people on utmost priority. If necessary, please divert resources from other sectors also temporarily to solve resource crunch on priority.

- \* Stop making discrimination for adherence to power cut schedule, low voltage and fluctuations for un-influential colonies only. This measure does not allow fast track solution of problem, as warranted.

- \* It is reported that measures

system to check pilferage problem with the least possible delay.

- \* Fix accountability for failure to ensure 100% achievement in making available quality and uninterrupted power with the result- oriented approach. Incultate the work culture, overcome operational bottlenecks at each stage and in time by streamlining quick decision making processes and show door to inefficient, non performers, under performers for dereliction of duty.

To overcome power shortage problem is a serious issue which needs a big push and calls for speedy solution .Hope our CM (who also holds charge of power portfolio) will kindly address to this challenge with his dynamism, visionary and time bound approach towards achieving objective of self-sufficiency in power sector, and thereby bringing new hope, wellbeing and realism for masses of state.

By the time this writes up is used, the monsoon must have come, given succor against scorching heat. As always happens, we all shall forget to raise voice for power and authorities too will take leisure from responding to public anger, who may have kept them on toes to know the result of strategies devised till now, to improve power scenario which otherwise may lead them to gain time and hood-wink the issue at least till such time peak summer restarts in 2014. Let this not happen!

have been taken to improve distribution of power by engaging services of private agency (Wipro). Please gear up the machinery to get the task completed in a definite time bound schedule, otherwise it may take decades to get the job fructified.

- \* Need to put in place definite time schedule to plan and execute task for generation of new power projects and also devise fool proof

## Environment and sustainable rural development

Dr.Banarsi Lal and Dr. Vikas Tandon

Environment is one of the most important pillars of sustainable development. There is the need to establish a sustainable development process in rural India. Environmental aspect assumes great significance in growing deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation, water pollution, biodiversity loss and the like which continue to worsen economic development in rural India. The common property resources which are mostly natural must be protected for overall growth of the rural areas. The natural resources should be protected for overall growth of the rural areas. Such efforts not only lead to optimum utilization of natural resources but also generate more employment for the rural people. This initiative requires people's participation. For instance, afforestation activities cannot be successful without the help of local communities. The relationship between development and environment is well established. This requires the awareness on environmental issues.

Environmental quality is an integral part of development. Without environmental ethics development is simply undermined. Natural resources are the wealth of any nation. Presently they are facing environmental hazards due to many reasons. Sustainable development is focused on any kind of betterment that should not harm the environment so that the well being of future generations is guaranteed and the harmonious relationship environment and development is sustained. The process of sustainable development tries to build social and economic progress satisfying the needs and values of the social groups without foreclosing future options. Rio-Earth Summit (1992) highlights the view that socio-economic development and environment protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing processes. Recently, the healthy rural environment has encountered divergent environmental hazards as an addition to their existing issues of social and economic hardships. Such threats badly affect the local community which is the impetus behind research for alternative sources such as cultivation in marginal lands. It constitutes a growing class of environment refugees. Sustainable rural development is felt as a necessary intervention to fight against poverty, unemployment and other complicated problems in rural areas. Sustainable rural development can promote growth and equity simultaneously and also promote the development of democratic process at the grass root level by creating awareness on social forestry, soil conservation, population control, protection of tanks, rural energy management, biodiversity, popularization of eco-friendly activities etc. Sustainable rural development on the one hand benefits local people and safeguards the flora and fauna of a particular region on the other. At this stage common property resources are important but they are being neglected. They should be protected and

organized through people's participation. Common property resources can generate more employment opportunities in rural areas. The sustainability of development for the rural people should dexterously and lucratively aim at motivating the people to get involved in community action and to ensure their participation in diverse and numerous environmental protection and optimum utilization of natural resources. Committed involvement of each and everyone is expected in this process. Thus, rural development will obviously lead to an overall growth of rural areas.

People's participation plays an inevitable role in driving the fruits of development schemes. It is an important instrument to monitor the officials and contractors on the one hand and augment the empowerment of the local bodies on the other. It increases the worthiness of the project by means of achieving a steady and balanced growth from within the best use of natural resources. Environmental issues cannot be solved unless the local people take part in it. Their participation will help in promoting wildlife conservation, afforestation and also in employment generation. Local people skill and manpower are needed to deal with the aftermath of environmental disasters. The problems confronted in the rural areas do not involve huge amount of money but the fullest involvement of the people with a commitment to solve the problems. For instance, sanitation is a chronic problem in rural areas but it cannot be solved by the various programmes of the government alone. It can also be solved by the people. Afforestation and arresting of deforestation can be carried with the help of local people. Protection of environment is mainly in the hands of the people. People's participation is imperative need.

Environment protection is an essential part of development. Without adequate environment protection, development is useless. It has been estimated that by 2030 food production will need to double and industrial output and energy use will increase three times in the world and five times in the developing nations. This growth can bring the risk of appalling environmental damage. It can also bring with it better environment protection, clean air water and eradication of poverty. Environmental damage affects the present and future human welfare. It affects human health and reduces agricultural productivity. Some problems are associated with the lack of economic development, inadequate sanitation, clean water and air pollution from biomass burning. Illegal cutting of forests is a matter of great concern. The lack of appropriate technology for maximum utilization of the raw materials, poor silvicultural practices, low recovery, low budgetary provision for forest operations have all hampered effective management. As a result fuel wood, timber, pole wood and carving wood are being exploited at unsustainable levels. Ecological degradation of wetlands together with pollution has resulted in the loss of flora and fauna. The high amount of

fertilizers and other inputs required in agriculture for increasing the productivity has led to the degradation of the environment. Despite decades of warning about pollution and efforts to control it, people are still being exposed to toxic pollutants. Pollution from agricultural land caused by leaching of nitrogen fertilizers has been detected in the ground water in many areas. In Harayana, for example, some well water is reported to have nitrate concentration ranging from 114 mg./litre to 1800 mg./litre far above the national standard 45 mg./litre. Government should monitor and implement policies to reduce pollution and environment degradation and safeguard the natural system that supports renewable resources. Action should be taken for achieving a sustainable future.

Environment protection is possible through effective participation of the people. It has been observed that unless the people are put at the core of any development activity, the relationship among the environmental development ceases to exist. It has been studied that people's participation is the most determining factor of biodiversity conservation. People living around the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala can be taken as an example. It is not only taking care of the decentralized government control over forests but also ensuring the biodiversity conservation a reality. The participatory approach to environmental protection can be strengthened through the decentralized planning which provides opportunity for the rural communities to effectively participate in the development process provided the environmental issues are made a part of local plans. It has been observed that the rural people's level of environmental awareness and participation is important with respect to environmental endeavors. All the stakeholders should understand the present environmental crisis and find out suitable solutions to tackle this awful situation. The dictum, prevention is better than cure is more related to the present day's environmental issues as it is directly proportional to man's survival problems. Sustainable rural development hints at the rational use of scarce resources with the support of people. A multifarious strategy needs to be formulated to solve the rural problems through development process and to protect the environment through community participation. A renowned environmentalist Sh. Anil Agarwal proposed a seven point environment agenda for India. One of them is "Rural development should become holistic, at the same time, village ecosystem should be protected." It will help to an evergreen revolution in agriculture where productivity can be increased without any harm to social and economic fabric. Thus, the holistic approach towards rural development has to be taken into account which includes amelioration of the quality of life of the rural people through appropriate exploitation of natural resources. It is indeed a silver lining for rural development.

## Modi coronation

Sir,

The BJP decision to coronate Modi as head of election campaign for 2014 has created ripples in the political circles. BJP as organisation also experienced powerful tremors with the resignation of veteran leader Advani as it revealed the underbelly of their top brass. It will be no exaggeration to term it as serious indiscretion on the part of the people who vouch safe the ideal of "nation first." It is not that Modi shall be enabled to wield a magical stick emitting the vibrant energy of hypnotism to mould saner people of different ideologies into a single sock solid unit to engineer the process of national upliftment and renaissance. The episode is reflective of the mindset to stick to status quo and resist change for nation's pride and prosperity. Simply by nominating Modi as chief of the electoral campaign, it is not guaranteed that BJP will muster enough numerical strength to form the Government at the Centre on their own bolstering the claim of Modi for PM's slot, albeit it may provide a lever to Modi to cleanse that slut in the organisation. BJP's lofty claim of a party with a difference already stands demolished. The incident in focus would be a lasting push to the lowest ebb. This is no healthy politics. Advani panics and crashes into resignation to the embarrassment of party president.

Congress and other detractors get plenty of ammunition to fire at BJP. Flurry of damage control activity got triggered to motivate Advani for reversal of his intentional folly; ultimately he relaxed and changed his rigid stance but not before the organisation had

suffered a nasty blow. This volte-face was reportedly made possible with forceful but belated intervention of RSS. If as seen over the years BJP is practically a component of Sangh Parivar, they will be well advised to exert God fatherly influence to keep indiscipline and lust for self aggrandisement under air tight check otherwise their movement of character building would suffer cascading setbacks. Status quo-ism and defeatist mental outlook on the part of politicians is the start reality. Nobody is in a mood to listen to the public voice, especially youth who clamour for soothing change in the system.

There is not dearth of good people and men of action in the country but the vested interests of politicians controlling the system discard them as misfits. National interest is subservient to self interest and hostage to money mania syndrome.

In the name of pseudo secularism, unholy political alliance which have become tools of reaping the personal gains, men of vision and action are relegated to the background. NDA and UPA have been given a fair chance to prove their effectiveness but the storm of degradation is not changing course. Elections after every 5 years interval are not a religious rituals but a process to elect best of the stuff for inspirational governance. This is not happening. Politicians already tested and proved as damp squib have to be relieved from the driving seat to enable the nation to negotiate the stiff challenges ahead.

Yours etc....

P C Sharma

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## After shocks of Modi's coronation

Amit Kushari(IAS.Retd)

The first major fall out of Narendra Modi's promotion in the BJP was seen in eastern India -- a political earthquake rocked the state of Bihar. The seventeen year old marriage between JDU and BJP came to an abrupt end and all the eleven BJP ministers of Bihar were sacked by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with one stroke of the pen. The Muslims of Bihar who are seventeen percent of the population were overjoyed and Shri Nitish Kumar became the Muslim 'hriday samrat' (Muslim dilon ka badshah) overnight on the same pattern as Mulayam Singh Yadav in UP became Mullah Mulayam after winning the hearts of 21% Muslim population of UP. Mulayam Singh had forged an alliance between the Hindu Yadavs and the Muslims and this combination had been electorally a great success. Nitish Kumar also must be pondering over such an alliance in Bihar by clubbing the Hindu Kurmi votes with the 17% Muslim votes. In neighbouring Bengal also Chief Minister Mamata Didi is using similar tactics to keep the Muslim votes under her control. Bengal has a huge 26 % Muslim population and so Didi has to go out of her way to become the maharani of the Muslim hearts. Whenever she goes to any gathering where Muslims are present in good numbers, she quickly puts on the 'Hijab' and also makes a gesture which is like offering namaaz. In her speeches also she liberally uses phrases of Muslim etiquette like, 'inshallah', 'mahshallah', 'alham dul illah' and so on. The chief ministers of UP, Bihar and Bengal therefore have similar agendas and they could be the best of friends after the 2014 elections. They are already talking of a federal front of these regional satraps -- independent of both Congress and BJP. The Chief Minister of Odisha, Patanaiik, may also join this group for claiming power after 2014. The friendship of this group costs nothing for them because JDU, TMC, SP and BJD of Odisha have no political interests in other states and so no seat sharing would be required. However, these parties on their own can never come to power-- unless they are supported by Congress from outside. If they accept Congress support and form a government they will become mere dolls at the mercy of the Congress. They will not be able to undo any wrong done by the UPA. They will not be able to bring to justice the scammers of UPA .

If the people of India are happy with the present government they should vote for the UPA and if they are not, they should give a clear majority to the NDA, otherwise we will have a weak government for 2 or 3 years and may have another general election by 2016, 2017.

By projecting Narendra Modi as the Chairman of the campaign committee of the BJP , the BJP has taken a big gamble. Mr. Modi is widely perceived as a polarising factor and so it may be difficult for NDA to find allies unless this image is changed. However, if Mr. Modi can take the BJP tally to 170+ then allies may trickle in slowly because power attracts and nothing succeeds like success. However, if the BJP tally falls below 170, say 160 or 155, then NDA cannot come to power as allies will not be available. In such a situation BJP may have to reconsider their stand and project a more acceptable leader like Sushma Swaraj or Arun Jaitley, for roping in more friends. This can happen only after seeing the results of 2014.

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## AYUSH in J&K

Arun Jandial

Dr. H.R.Keshavamurthy in his write-up ' Mainstreaming of Ayush' (DE,June 14,2013) has appreciated central Government having ' transformed the health sector by providing additional financial resources , equipment and machinery .... encouraging health research and for promotion and integration of the Indian Systems of Medicine ' . He has also given elaborate figures to prove his point. The writer talks of peaceful co-existence of Allopathy with Ayurveda , Siddha , Unani and Homeopathy and providing opportunity to every recognized medical system and at the same time also talks of integration and holistic health care . In fact , we only talk of integration and holistic health care - and have failed miserably to evolve comprehensive health policy and national system of health care based on scientific evaluation of all traditional systems. Had there been real integration for holistic health care , we would not have been running parallel systems of medicines without giving them equal opportunities and evaluating their utility in the light of modern scientific knowledge and research regarding structure and functioning of human body and causation of the diseases on the basis of advancement in diagnosis . Whosoever is to work in the field of health and medicine will have to be trained in such a manner as not to be deprived of the modern scientific knowledge and its advancements to understand the internationally accepted facts regarding health and diseases irrespective of the systems of medicine . A lot needs to be done in upgrading institutes , in respect of syllabi , staff , infrastructure , diagnostic aids , hospitals etc . imparting training in medicine in different systems to bring true integration .

Central Government for promotion of AYUSH in J&K provided grants for setting up a pharmacy , Drug Testing Laboratory and Ayurvedic College at Jammu. Had the pharmacy and drug testing laboratory been made functional , the dispensaries would have been supplied with standard drugs duly tested and the long standing grievance of ISM doctors of J&K that instead of promotion and propagation of AYUSH , these dispensaries are fast losing their relevance because of irrational, inadequate and substandard supplies purchased at exorbitant rates which fail to show the desired results and meet the expectations of the patients attending these dispensaries bringing a bad name to the doctor , institution and the system , would have been redressed . The buildings for the pharmacy and Drug testing Laboratory were constructed long time back but no machinery and equipments were purchased nor necessary posts created to make the pharmacy and laboratory functional . These buildings are being used to store drugs procured and run administrative office . So much so for the central grants and their utilization in absence of proper monitoring and accountability . No deadline has been set for making Govt. Ayurvedic College functional .

It is high time that the state Govt.instead of discriminating against Indian Systems of Medicine on the pattern of central Govt. take all the necessary steps for promotion of AYUSH in the state which has a lot of potential because of immense herbal wealth and make the pharmacy , drug testing laboratory and Ayurvedic College functional without any delay.and provide equal opportunities for the promotion of all the systems under AYUSH.

Readers Write

## Automatic upgradation

Sir,

Refer news item 'HRD Ministry urged to rethink policy of automatic upgradation 'DE, June 17. Better later than never. It will be in the interest of the education in the country if the policy of automatic upgradation is stopped in the country. The recognition of this fact by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) is quite welcome. The Committee has strongly opposed the policy of automatic upgradation from Class I to VIII, saying it would leave the child without motivation to work hard.

The Education system had come under strain under these circumstances. The automatic upgradation was affecting the meritorious candidates and teachers as well. Besides taking elevation as far granted students would never attend classes daily. And they also were creating indiscipline in the classes. Once they reached X Class, they could not qualify the exam, the brunt of which had to be faced by the teachers in terms of withholding their increments and administrative action against them.

The Parliamentary panel reached to this conclusion after studying Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Rural-2012.

Hope the authorities will take cognizance of the report and will frame guidelines accordingly.

Yours etc...

Sunil Verma, Sainik Colony, Jammu

## Solve problem of Paramedical candidates

Sir,

It is requested to the Minister of Health Service/Commissioner Secretary Health Service and Director Health Service Jammu to solve the problem of Paramedical candidates appearing in the examination session 2013-14 and stayed by the High Court of J&K Jammu.

So that the examinees may not be suffer. A lot of time has already been consumed and the candidates are not be able to adjust themselves in their professional line of activities.

Yours etc....

Naresh Kumar, Rajouri

President Para Medical Trainees Under Trg. Association