

## SAMARTH MISSION

An Inter-ministerial meeting to review progress of biomass co-firing in thermal power plants was held recently at New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav and Union Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh. The meeting was held in the backdrop of the onset of the harvesting season for Kharif crops in the country. The meeting was also attended by Secretary (Power / Environment, Forest & CC /MOA&FW) and senior officials from the state governments of Haryana, Punjab & Uttar Pradesh and heads of all power utilities in the NCR region, as well. The meeting also drew participation from important government bodies like CAQM, CEA, CPCB etc. The SAMARTH Mission presented details of Biomass co-fired in different NCR plants, Purchase orders placed, action on short term and long term tenders in process vis-a-vis the quantity required by NCR GENCOs as well. Regarding the quantity of biomass co-fired till date, it was mentioned that while till FY 2020-21, only 8 power plants had co-fired biomass pellets, the corresponding number has increased to 39 as on date. In the NCR region, 10 TPPs have started co-firing. However, the amount of biomass co-fired is still lagging. As on date, 83066 MT of biomass has been co-fired in 39 thermal power plants across the country totaling to a capacity of 55390 MW. In NCR region, the biomass co-fired is 22,696 MT out of which 95 per cent has been done by NTPC. Further, 99 per cent of the PO in place has been contributed by NTPC Ltd. Action by NTPC for both Biomass co-firing and procurement initiative was praised and it was mentioned that other GENCOs should follow the footstep of NTPC for successful implementation of Biomass co-firing in the country. Different activities undertaken by MOP to expand Biomass co-firing in the country were discussed. Among the prominent activities issue of revised Biomass policy, long term model contract, model SOP, Database development of Biomass stakeholders, lab development for testing of Biomass, initiation of R&D projects on Biomass, development of Biomass Mission website etc. It was also discussed that 25 number of offline and online training cum awareness programmes for various stakeholders in the sector including farmers, pellet manufacturers and power plant officials were held. While in the FY 2021-22, 10 such programs were held in a period of six months, 15 events have already been held in a period of six months in this Financial Year. Mission also highlighted various advertisements given in national & regional dailies for stopping stubble burning and raising awareness about SAMARTH mission in association with Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) & Power Foundation of India (PFI). On the biomass pellet procurement side, a large no. of tenders have been floated by several power plants. Around 106 MMT of biomass tenders are at various stages of the tendering process. Out of these, order has already been placed for 43.47 Lac MT of biomass tenders by 35 power plants while tendering process is ongoing for 1064 Lac MT. During the review, it was observed that the target of 5 per cent co-firing of biomass along with coal in TPPs in the country was still far off. However, most power plants have issued long term tenders and the situation is expected to improve when the supply will start in those tenders. Meanwhile, Union Power Minister directed that till the time supply from the tenders is not started, power utilities should start procurement for the short term via alternate methods like spot market or commission agents as the harvesting season has already started. All TPPs were directed that they should issue enough tenders to cover 5 per cent requirement of biomass with special emphasis on plants located in Punjab and Haryana. It was also directed that power utilities should make all out efforts to complete the procurement process for existing tenders as soon as possible. Direction was given to all thermal power plants in NCR region to install biomass pellet manufacturing plants (torrefied / non-torrefied) in their premises, including the private power companies. GENCOs may also explore to put up plant through Consortium. It was further highlighted that the non-compliance in this regard would be viewed very strictly. He further directed that Principal Secretary (Environment) from each State should act as nodal person for Biomass co-firing in the state. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had accepted the suggestion. He further communicated that MOP may think of giving Must Run status for the thermal power stations co-firing Biomass. He has praised the initiative by MOP and remarked that all should support Biomass Mission objective, which is a Mission of Prime minister of the country. CAQM was also communicated to start considering penal provisions on Thermal Power Plants which are not taking enough steps to curb emissions and not co-firing sufficient quantity of biomass. Ministry of Agriculture apprised that the Govt. has distributed Rs 600 crore worth of machinery to the Custom Hiring Centres of state governments under its scheme. Union minister requested that MoA should monitor whether the scheme is benefitting the intended beneficiary and that machines for stubble collection are made available in the vicinity of thermal power plants. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had further taken a review meeting for financial support methodology. Union Environment Minister directed CPCB to also disseminate the information about the projects and organise workshop regarding the same. It was also emphasised that the Power ministry would consider reduction in coal supply of those thermal power plants that do not comply with the MoP's policy on biomass co-firing. Sufficient emphasis was given on the fact that the health and safety of the citizens was topmost priority and no one has the right to put innocent lives in danger. Union Minister (Power and New & Renewable Energy) lauded the efforts of the SAMARTH Mission and directed it to continue its good efforts and hoped that the measures of the government in transforming the problem of stubble burning into a solution of power production would bear fruit with the cooperation of state governments.



OFF 'D' CUFF

### Rule over your senses

in your innate nature.

Study spiritual wisdom every morning for 15 minutes to fill your mind with pure thoughts. Purity in the mind ensures purity in deeds. It's only when the mind is weak that we give in to sensory pleasure and easily become prone to distractions and dependencies.

Use your sense organs with a consciousness that you are the ruler and controller. Gaining control over them needs to begin with your thoughts. Remind yourself - 'I eat only what is healthy for me... I spend limited time on social media'. Stick to your decision.

Consciously monitor your sense organs to give them the right direction. Even if they drift towards sensory pleasures - people, places and things - bring them back. Even if you fail, don't give up.

Meditate daily to stop the mind and senses from wandering. You will experience bliss when you are centred

-Brahma Kumaris

# Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday; declaration of holiday & its ramifications

■ ADV RAMESHWAR SINGH JAMWAL

In May 1946, Sheikh Abdullah launched 'Quit Kashmir Movement' and asked Kashmiris to prepare for last battle against Dogra rule.

This however was not to the liking of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the Home Minister in the interim Government. However Sheikh Abdullah continued his vituperative against the Maharaja and his family and it led to communal clashes in Amira Kadal locality of Srinagar (Saxena, Dr H L,1975. P.453).

Sheikh Abdullah was arrested and in his defence, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru along with some others like Asaf Ali, Dewan Chaman Lal, Mohammeda Yunus decided to reach Srinagar.

He also sought immediate release of Sheikh Abdullah but the administration believed that such a course would complicate the surcharged atmosphere and the District Magistrate ordered for removal of Pt Nehru without permission. Pt Nehru defied the ban and was forced to spend a night in Dak Bungalow at Kohala. This act of Pt. Nehru was also not liked by the Indian National Congress and President of Congress, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad asked him to return to Delhi. Maharaja Hari Singh provided all facilities, including his car, for return of Pt. Nehru to Delhi but Nehru made it a point for his disliking of Hari Singh though the ban imposed for entry of Pt Nehru in the state had been lifted. Sheikh Abdullah was convicted in the case but was released after giving an assurance of loyalty to the Maharaja.

In May 1947, Congress President Acharya Kriplani visited Srinagar and denounced 'Quit Kashmir Movement' as Maharaja was not a foreigner like the British. Lord Mountbatten announced the plan for division of India on communal lines and gave just 73 days to divide a country of the size of Europe, minus Russia.

He also visited the state of J&K, as the fate of Gilgit, which was on a sixty year lease with the British and having British forces, was at stake. British were convinced that if Jammu and Kashmir joined Indian dominion, it would be difficult to continue their military base in Gilgit.

Mountbatten went to the extent of giving an assurance that if Kashmir acceded to Pakistan, it would not be treated as unfriendly act by Government of India.

However Maharaja Hari Singh disappointed Mountbatten by not meeting him on the day he had to convey his decision. Maharaja Hari Singh was in catch-22 situation.

He also wished of people of the state.

Moreover, the Pak Ministry of Kashmir Affairs remained all powerful and treated PoJK and Gilgit-Baltistan as its file. On top of it, you have a five member Supreme Council of which three members represent Government of Pakistan including the most powerful Minister of Kashmir Affairs.

The Council was chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan. All important decisions are taken in this forum. The PAK facade is further demonstrably exposed when we refer to Article 31 (3) of the PoJK\_ICA which ceded the many functions to the Government of Pakistan. These include:

- 1) The responsibilities of Pakistan under UNCIP Resolutions.
- 2) Defence and security of PoJK
- 3) Current coin, or the issue of notes, bills or other paper currency, and
- 4) External affairs of PoJK including foreign trade and foreign aid.

Additionally there were more than 52 matters under third schedule in conjunction with section 31.

This flip flop has neither served people of PoJK well nor served the cause of Pakistan. In fact, a prominent Pak journalist Ajaz Haider was of the opinion that this could become a trap for Pakistan, if ever the issues were to be referred to be a third party.

He claimed that Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, a top lawyer and political leader of eminence had told him, "Our position (on PoJK) under International law is different from our position under domestic law (view from Pakistan by Ajaz Haider-Friday Times). He had obviously toned down the comments of

He had his support base in Jammu Dogras but the state had an overwhelming Muslim majority.

There were thousands of Dogra families in Kashmir and the surcharged atmosphere, as witnessed in recent past could have been catastrophic.

Large scale killings had already started in the neighboring areas.

On August 12, newly appointed Prime Minister, Major General Janak Singh Katoch, sent a telegram of Stand Still Agreement to the Dominions of Pakistan and India, which suggested that the existing agreements should continue pending settlement of details and execution of fresh agreements.

Government of India invited the emissary of state to come to Delhi for negotiation but Pt. Nehru declined to meet him as his friend Sheikh Abdullah had been rearrested as a preventive measure.

It was intransigence of Pt. Nehru which delayed the accession of state with Dominion of India. One Ibrahim Khan from Poonch, with support from Pakistan Government started a direct action against the move of Maharaja to join India.

A lot of them had become supporters of Pakistan due to religious factor. It was in these circumstances; Maharaja Hari Singh was forced to leave Srinagar by road, and signed the instrument of accession, paving the way for Indian forces to enter Jammu and Kashmir. Manipulated history created a negative image about this bright, reformist King but now the Jammu people have realized the mistake and started celebrating his birthday in a big way and he is emerging as the rallying point for all pro Jammu voices in the region.

Here is an example as to how foreign authors, have tried to blame Hari Singh, and which effort has been thwarted in the review of a book, written by an Australian, by Satish Kumar.

According to him, 'sensitive and volatile international disputes have a way of prolonging themselves not merely because the parties concerned find it difficult to resolve differences but also because foreign governments, international organizations, scholars and commentators queer the pitch.

Often, due to poor understanding of the issues involved and sometimes also for vicious reasons, they tend to suggest solutions that complicate the final resolution'. He then cites the case of Christopher Snedden, an Australian scholar, whose recent book under review has aroused controversy and then comes to the conclusion that because its analysis of the reasons for the dispute is faulty and the solution he offers

is highly unimaginative.

According to Satish Kumar, the author seems to have begun with the hypothesis that Pakistan is not to be blamed for causing the Kashmir dispute, and has taken great pains to prove this hypothesis. Unfortunately, the evidence provided to prove it is slender.

Only Chapter 2 of the book pertaining to the Poonch uprising can be said to be new in the sense that so much detail is not available elsewhere.

The rest of the book covers familiar ground except that the largest section of the book on so-called Azad Kashmir brings together at one place in a consolidated form well-known facts pertaining to the political, constitutional and economic development of the area.

The book makes much of the point that the Poonch uprising remained unreported in the press and even the Pakistani government did not emphasize its importance.

The Indian government deliberately ignored it. Otherwise, this would have been regarded as the main cause of the Kashmir dispute, not the Pakistani aggression. This is a highly questionable assertion given the voluminous evidence to the contrary.

Poonch is a Muslim-dominated district of Jammu province and at the time of partition it was part of kingdom of Maharaja Hari Singh, as decided by the British and its residents had no right to decide the future of Poonch on their own, as per the terms of the Indian Independence Act.

The region saw an anti-Maharaja revolt by few persons, which later took the character of an anti-India revolt, between 15 August 1947, that is, the date of Indian independence, and 26 October 1947, that is, the date of J&K's accession to India. According to the author, many Poonch is raised Pakistani flags on 14 August, the day when Pakistan was created.

They had started anti-Maharaja activity in February 1947. In June, they mounted a no-tax campaign. Towards the end of August, it became an armed revolt. In six weeks, the whole district except Poonch city was in rebel hands.

The author himself qualifies this by saying that Maj. Gen. Scott, Chief of Staff of J&K State Forces, had reported to the J&K Deputy Prime Minister on 4 September 1947 that about 400 Muslim residents from Kahuta Tehsil of Rawalpindi district had infiltrated into J&K, and this report can be regarded as factually correct. And yet, he maintains that the Poonch uprising was a totally indigenous affair.

(To be continued.....).

## Are sufferings of people of PoJK of no concern to us?

■ M M KHAJOORIA



Here is a surprise. Pakistan conceded that final status of PoJK territory was yet to be decided. According to Article 257 of the Constitution of Pakistan, Pakistan sovereignty to PoJK shall extend, "When the people of the state of J&K decide to accede to Pakistan, the Pakistan treated Occupied Kashmir as territory whose relationship between Pakistan and the state shall be determined in accordance with the wishes of the people."

However, Article 1 (d) referred to such states and territories as are or may be included in Pakistan by accession or otherwise. Word 'otherwise' obviously sought to provide cover for both external 'Aggression' like Tribal invasion, cross border terrorism and Kargil intrusion and internal 'subversion' through over ground proxies and local terrorists operating under the garb of 'freedom struggle'.

This made the position of Pakistan on the issue of accession blatantly fraudulent.

Pakistan had taken numerous measures to ensure that 'PoJK' remains a colony of Pakistan. Under AK\_ICA 1974, a person may contest elections and seek government employment only if he or she 'believes in the ideology of Pakistan' and the concept of the 'States' accession of Pakistan.'

This certainly not commensurate with the assertion that the PoJK's status will be 'determined in accordance with the

wishes of people of the state.

Moreover, the Pak Ministry of Kashmir Affairs remained all powerful and treated PoJK and Gilgit-Baltistan as its file. On top of it, you have a five member Supreme Council of which three members represent Government of Pakistan including the most powerful Minister of Kashmir Affairs.

The Council was chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan. All important decisions are taken in this forum. The PAK facade is further demonstrably exposed when we refer to Article 31 (3) of the PoJK\_ICA which ceded the many functions to the Government of Pakistan. These include:

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He claimed that Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, a top lawyer and political leader of eminence had told him, "Our position (on PoJK) under International law is different from our position under domestic law (view from Pakistan by Ajaz Haider-Friday Times). He had obviously toned down the comments of

Aitzaz Ahsan.

The people of occupied territory, however have taken the constitutional provisions seriously.

For instance AK\_ICA 1974, J&K interim constitution of 1974 mandated that a person may contest elections and seek Government employment only if he or she 'believes in the ideology of Pakistan' and the concept of the 'States' accession of Pakistan.

A huge chunk of population in 'PoJK' refuses to enroll as voters. The leaders struggling for casting away the yoke of PaK slavery do not contest elections as they can't and would not in good conscience take the oath of allegiance to the idea of Pakistan. The hills in many parts of Occupied Kashmir were boldly painted with slogan, "Azadi Ya Shadat". While looking into old files, I came across jottings regarding proceeding of one of International Seminars- 'NIMRANA Initiative' attended wherein delegates from PoJK and PoJK diaspora were present in strength.

I brought to their notice that in J&K prominent Muslim leaders like Ali Shah Geelani and his Jammata-e-Islami colleagues happily took oath in the name of Allah to preserve and protect the integrity of India' and later claimed the oath was taken as part of political strategy. Why couldn't' you adopt the same strategy, I asked. They were scandalized and angrily shouted in one voice, 'Such persons are Kafirs.

It is blasphemy to call them Muslims. No worldly possession can tempt a true Muslim to swear falsely by Allah.' Now listen to this one.

I was named Chairman of Drafting

Committee to record the proceedings of the Seminar.

While dictating proceedings, I had to refer to two parts of Jammu & Kashmir. I thought it may be considered partisan on my part to describe the area of the state controlled by Pakistan as Occupied Territory.

So I opted for the international parlance that described PoJK as Pakistan administered area. As soon as I uttered the word 'administered' a young member from the so called 'PoJK' stood up and vehemently protested.

He said, "We are an occupied territory. There was no administration there. Sir, I insist that this be recorded as Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir."

As no one contested his assertion, I was too happy to accommodate him. As I did not make any comment, he said, "You don't believe me" and pulled up his shirt to show his back which was crisscrossed with deep healed wounds of brutal canning. Shocked, I hastily said, "Of course I believe you and have complied with your demand." "Thank You", he said and took his chair muttering. Many others have suffered worst fate" The survey by an independent agency based in England found that only about 20 per cent of the occupied territory supported Accession with Pakistan

We were guilty of abandoning our people trapped in PoJK. Let us at least now make amends and resolve to make it abundantly clear the we shall not stand idly and watch the violation of human rights and inflicting of brutalities on our brethren.

(The author is former DGP J&K Police).

## YOUR COLUMN

### Population explosion in India

Dear Editor,

Please allow me the hospitality of the columns of your esteemed paper to highlighting the factors responsible for causing population Explosion in free India. Population explosion is one of the serious problems being faced by our developing country. Although it has definitely made great progress in each and every field yet it is facing her growing population. We are touching 140 crore till 2022 and likely to be crossed over the most populated country of the world China by the year 2030. Now China has got controlled over her population by adopting the policy of one family for one child. Before the situation becomes uncontrollable certain strict preventive measures are to be implemented by the central Government with the proposal to introducing a bill in the ensuing winter session of the Parliament. Otherwise we will have more men to feed everyday.

We will have more houses to be built. As much our population is increasing so much our land is decreasing to feed its fast growing population. Already 20 crore people are living below the poverty line.

Moreover population explosion has given birth to many ills. Poverty is at the top of these ills. We will have to face more unemployment in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Standard of our living will be grown low. Spread of education could become a great problem. Another problem of illiterate people would

likely to be added. Facilities of health services to be provided to the people could become greater problem for the Govt. Our progress especially in the field of agriculture would definitely become not smooth.

Population growth should have been controlled earlier. If not controlled earlier, now it becomes our moral duty to bridle its fast growth. The first and foremost remedy to check population growth is the spread of education. All people should know the importance and significance of family planning already initiated by the Congress Govt. should be forwarded ahead compulsorily with the aim that the Government service should be given to those who would adopt the policy of Hum Do Aur Hmare Do (We two and ours Two).

Fast population growth must be controlled irrespective of religion, region, caste, creed, colour and language otherwise imbalance of population would prove to be burden upon us as we will not be able to have enough food to feed fast growing population besides other resources would become fall short of rather there has to be a balance among the communities in the country.

It is worthwhile to mention here that vote bank policies must be avoided which is only promoting huge corruption among the political parties by the race of making false promises to be made to the gullible people to providing them freebies.

Population explosion is as dangerous to the country as the global warming and climate change is dangerous to the planet. Now the question arises as to who are responsible for such population explosion in India. To tell you the truth is that the Muslims, the labour class

of Scheduled Caste and also of the upper caste people/OBC who are less educated have more children than those who are educated ones.

Now following are the measures to be adopted by the Govt of India. For those who have more than ten children no facilities such as employment opportunities, free ration from the Government depots, no relaxation in getting electricity/water connection, no relaxation in traveling by trains.

All the NGOs including mass-media have failed playing there constructive roles creating awareness amongst these dropouts. It is a moot question for us here to be discussed if this explosion remains allowed as it is to be going on, one day will come India has to be faced hunger problem on a larger scale as it would not be able to feed its explosive population so it is urged upon the Govt. of India not to be passive to initiate hot discussion on this unavoidable topic in the Parliament by piloting a comprehensive policy bill as it is a great hurdle rather stumbling block in the development of the country. So far, as many big projects planned to be completed by the Government of India; are surely going to be completed at this time.

Had this bigger project of population explosion been started earlier well in time, it would also have been got somewhat controlled at this time. We did have wasted a lot of time in getting population explosion under control. Leaving all other things set aside, Government of India must think of seriously awarding top priority on this greater problem.

Tara Chand Bhagat, Talab Tillo, Jammu.