

BJP stands for separate district status for Billawar-Basohli: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday that the BJP has always stood for a separate district for Billawar-Basohli and when it comes to power in Jammu & Kashmir, it will propose a Hill district for the region.

Addressing a public meeting here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, BJP has, in its organisational set up, already recognised Billawar-Basohli as a separate district for many years now and the allocation of organisational responsibilities is also done accordingly. He said, the reorganisation of districts done last time by the PDP-Congress coalition government was arbitrary and devoid of rationale.

At that time also, said the Minister, though we were in opposition in J&K, we had strongly demanded a separate hill district for Billawar-Basohli but the Reorganisation Committee constituted by the then government did not pay any heed and instead, decided to have ten districts each for each of the two divisions of Kashmir and Jammu. This was done



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public meeting at Billawar, on Saturday.

at the behest of the then ruling coalition for their political considerations, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the entire Billawar-Basohli belt is endowed with natural beauty, rich traditional art particularly painting and people from here have made name for themselves in different walks of life including medical profession, administration, creative arts, etc.

However, he lamented that the governments in the past followed a policy of regional discrimination, as a result of which this region did not receive its due.

Recalling the last eight to nine years of the government

headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that from 2014 onwards, there has been an equitable allocation of central funds and resources for every region and particularly after J&K turned into Union Territory in 2019 there has been a conscious attempt to ensure that every section of people and every region gets its due.

Dr Jitendra Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for facilitating the approval of the landmark Chattergala tunnel linking this area to Doda-Bhaderwah, which will drastically reduce the journey time, besides gen-

erating revenue and employment. He informed that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Minister had issued the instructions to include the Chattergala Tunnel in the new Bharatmala Project.

On the occasion, Dr Singh also referred to an amount of over Rs. 75 Lakh from his MP Fund which has been allocated for the area despite the COVID pandemic. He said, while Rs 25 Lakh of MP fund was spent on construction work in Mandi, another Rs 25 lakh of MP fund is also being supplemented for extending the same work. At the same time, additional Rs



Mayor Jammu chairs meeting of JMC Contractors



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma chairing a meeting of Contractors of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

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JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa on Saturday convened a meeting of Rural Development Department here in DC Office Complex to review the progress of works under MGNREGA besides the works being executed under Swaachh Bharat Mission and PMAY-G.

CPO, Yoginder Katoch; ACD, Preeti Sharma; BDOs, besides other senior officers of the concerned department were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the ACD informed the chair regarding progress of the works under MGNREGA. It was informed that against a total 85059 job cards issued, 47228 job cards are active with 57110 workers availing the man-days. It was further apprised that Aadhaar Seeding of more than 85% Job Card Holders has been done.

The Deputy Commissioner was further apprised about the progress of the works under MGNREGA, including water conservation and water harvesting, rural connectivity and sanitation, development of play fields at each Panchayat, construction of Panchayat Ghars, renovation of tradi-

tional water bodies, flood control and protection etc. While reviewing the performance indicators of MGNREGA, the Deputy Commissioner asked all the concerned officers to gear up their efforts to achieve the projected targets which are lagging behind, so that the objective of the scheme is achieved.

Regarding the PMAY, the DC was informed that against the target of construction of 5272 houses, 4873 have been completed and 229 are untenable cases. It was also informed that under Awas Plus, the target is 2640, out of which 2564 have

been sanctioned. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to hold intensive review meetings on a regular basis so that the guidelines and timelines are strictly adhered to. Under SBM, it was informed that under Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management a total 189 works each have been sanctioned out of which 152 and 153 have been sanctioned respectively. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to monitor the progress at Panchayat level regarding implementation of the schemes and submit progress reports accordingly.

During the commencing week, the Enforcement Drive was carried out at different locations of Jammu-Patankot National Highways in past three days to check various visible offences under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

During the commencing week, the Enforcement Drive was carried out at different locations of Jammu-Patankot National Highways in which nearly 220 vehicles, which include Buses, Tippers, Trucks and School Buses, were checked for various offences viz. Route Permit violations, overloading, over speeding, protruding of Rods and without SLD.

A total 58 vehicles were challaned/compounded and an amount of Rs. 2.67 lakh was recovered from the violators.

The enforcement team comprised Esha Chib ARTO (P), Pawan Sharma ARTO (G), Tara Mani Sharma, ARTO (Flying Squad), Motor vehicles Inspectors Rajeev Kundal, Anupam Gondal, and Ranjeev Bhasin.

During the meeting, the contractors and the concerned officers were apprised about the progress of works under MGNREGA, SBM and PMAY-G.

The contractors assured the concerned officers that they will work in accordance with the guidelines and timelines.

Commissioner, JMC, Rahul Yadav, Joint Commissioner (Works), Rajesh Sumeria and other senior Officers of JMC also attended the meeting. A three-day discussion was held regarding the process of release of payments, conditions for allotment of contracts, timeline for execution of contracts and advance CDR.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere in which Commissioner JMC gave a patient hearing to the genuine problems of the contractors and assured them needful support.

The Joint Commissioner (Works) asked the contractors to deposit CDR for early allotment of contracts.

Mayor Jammu assured the contractors that all issues related to process for release of funds in the pattern of 50%, 25% and 25%, multiple works approval first on aggregate amount and then work-wise approvals, transfer of Drawing and Disbursing Powers to the Executive Engineers as are prevalent in other departments will be taken up with the Administrative Department for their redressal which will enhance efficiency and speedy execution of allotted contracts.

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