

Surging electricity demand in J&K can be met if we get electricity share from Punjab Govt as per 2018 Agreement: Sukhnandan

Why are we not getting our 20 pc electricity share from ShahPur Kandi/Thein Dam in Punjab?

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Why we are not getting our 20% electricity share from ShahPur Kandi/Thein Dam in Punjab?" asked furious Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar former Minister & BJP Chairman Panhayati Raj Cell, while addressing the media persons at Jammu.

Sukhnandan said that an MoU was signed in between the J&K and Punjab in 2018, but still we are not able to get the benefits of electricity and asked that the responsibility should be fixed and the electricity be acquired to provide relief to the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Consistent electricity blackout is being presently faced by the common public all over Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir which has taken face of a 'Vicious burning issue'. Inspite of having huge potential of



electricity generation in our UT, the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially Jammu region are suffering from huge unscheduled power cuts", said Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar.

Ch. Sukhnandan said, "I want to bring to the kind notice of LG Manoj

Sinha that in 2018, MOU was signed between Punjab and J&K Governments through Chief Secretaries of both the states for supply of 20 percent out of total electricity generated from the project on nominal charges to the J&K government for distribution to the public".

"The Government of Punjab shall make available to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir 20% share in the total power generated at the Thein Dam at the rate fixed by CERC with a ceiling of Rs. 3.50 per unit with prospective effect" Sukhnandan shared the exact words of the MoU signed by the representatives of both the governments.

Sukhnandan said that he is personally concerned for this issue and asked that whether the same has been implemented or is only a paper document.

He said that as the summer season is at its peak and people living in this hot climate without electricity for hours together, it has created fear among the public about their survival without electricity in this hot weather.

"I have full faith on our Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Government and also hard working LG of J&K to get acquainted from this copy of agreement so that the issue get resolved and public do not get suffer any more" he said.

Former Minister said that the administration is trying hard to get this issue resolved by procurement of electricity from other generation plants but if we have electricity resources already designed for our betterment we must get whatever was in papers. This will surely give respite to public in the time of this scorching weather, he added.



BJP Govt turning deaf ear to mounting public grievances in J&K: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pradesh Congress Committee Working-President, Raman Bhalla on Thursday claimed that so far the BJP rule has been of "mismanagement, immense despair and agony" and the country today stands at a stage where the common people are suffering from the wounds inflicted by the government.

Continuing his efforts to listen to grievances of aggrieved people in various areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency, Bhalla said politics of disorientation and false propaganda have become the hallmark of the functioning of the Modi government.

While interacting with aggrieved people of rural areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency, Bhalla said that the eighth year of the government stands at a stage where the citizens



JKPC Working- President, Raman Bhalla during visit to Gandhi Nagar area.

of the country are forced to suffer the countless wounds and ruthless in sensitivities inflicted by the government.

Bhalla lashed out at the central government for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post

August 5, 2019.

Hitting hard at the BJP and its state leadership, Bhalla said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal.

Bhalla called upon people to teach BJP a lesson of life for issues of price rise, unemployment, agricultural distress and crony capitalism in the country.

ANTF conducts raids in Punjab, arrests wanted inter-state drug dealer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) J&K on Thursday carried out raids at Balachaur, Kathgarh areas of Nawashehar Punjab and arrested one notorious drug dealer.

"ANTF J&K sleuths conducted raids at aforesaid areas and arrested a notorious drug dealer, who was wanted in FIR 03/2022 under Sections 8/15/29 NDPS Act of Police Station ANTF Jammu," SSP ANTF J&K, Vinay Sharma said adding that the drug dealer is the main receiver of narcotics and psychotropic drugs which are smuggled from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab area and was operating from Kathgarh Punjab and its adjoining areas including Balachaur, Nawashehar Punjab

In connection with the investigation of the aforesaid cited case, a team of ANTF was constituted which was led by Inspector Ankush Chib and SI Amandeep Singh under supervision of DySP Arun Jamwal and SSP ANTF J&K Vinay Sharma.

The team conducted series of raids in Balachaur, Kathgarh, Nawashehar Punjab areas and arrested one of the most wanted drug dealer who was identified as Bachittar Singh, son of Daleep Singh, resident of Village Jandi Kathgarh, Nawashehar wanted in the aforesaid case, SSP Vinay Sharma said adding that Bachittar used to deposit money in the accounts of drug dealers of South Kashmir who would further send drugs by concealing in trucks going from Kashmir Valley to Nawashehar Punjab

where Bachittar Singh used to collect the drugs and sell it to the local youth of the area to earn huge money in lieu of that. With the arrest of this main notorious drug dealer, ANTF Jammu has been able to break the forward chain network of narcotics and psychotropic drugs from Kashmir valley to Punjab, Vinay said.

SSP ANTF J&K also added that concrete efforts also being made to break down the supply chain of this drug racket. Meanwhile he also appealed to general public particularly to youth to keep away from drugs.

He further appealed to general public to share any kind of information regarding drug related activities with ANTF so that strict legal actions are taken against such drug dealers.

'Payment of unfair rent accounts to harassment'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a case of application under section 8 of Houses and Shops Rent Control Act for enhancement of rent in case titled 'Parshotam Dev Gupta Vs Vijay Kumar' in respect of premises of a building situated at Mohalla Partap Garh, Jammu, the Court of Rent Controller (Sub-Judge/CJM), Jammu has allowed application and enhanced monthly rent in respect of premises from Rs 400 per month to Rs 5,000 per month from the date of application.

While allowing the application of landlord, the Court of Rent Controller observed that evidence led by applicant explicitly demonstrated non-applicant to be in possession of premises as a tenant and that rent agreements relied upon by applicant/landlord also corroborate the assertion of applicant that rent in the locality of premises in question akin to one in occupation of tenant was around Rs 3,000 as on 2008. Court further observed, "Fact that Mohalla Pratap Garh, Jammu, the place where premises in question is situated - is commercially viable locality where price of land has scaled up/increased manifolds since 1996 - also remains un-controverter", maintaining, "In these circumstances, the payment of rent of Rs 400 per month for the premises by tenant, is plainly unfair; exceptionally meager and hugely unjust."

Indeed, for a tenant to pay monthly rent of Rs 400 even as on 2010 at a place like Mohalla Pratap Garh, Jammu is not only extremely dismaying, disillusioning and disgusting for a landlord but also an outright harassment in backdrop of huge increase in inflation and substantial rise in market value of premises in question," the Court observed and directed tenant to pay monthly rent of Rs 5,000 (rupees five thousand) to landlord from the date of application.

Traders hold protest against unscheduled power cuts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Traders of different markets under the banner of Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market (TFWNM) today held a protest demonstration against the 15 to 18 hours power cut in the Jammu region, particularly in the Ware House Nehru Market. Agitated over the acute power crisis faced by Traders during the times of soaring mercury levels, the Traders led by Deepak Gupta, President TFWHM, came

down heavily on the administration for the worst power crisis and warned the Govt. to take immediate steps to improve the situation before it further worsens.

Deepak Gupta said that this kind of situation is unprecedented and never witnessed in the past, It is

admitted fact that power consumption is less in Jammu region while it provides more revenue to the governments. At present Jammu region is facing scorching heat and is worst affected due to power shortfall.



Traders raising slogans against PDD during a protest at Jammu on Thursday.

by NHPC and Power Grid in Jammu and Kashmir to J&K UT, Deepak Gupta said that this will provide sufficient electricity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and JK UT will also get handsome revenue by selling power to other states.

During the protest, Prithvi Pal Gupta, Ex-General Secretary Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, Kirti Gupta, president Dal Merchant Association, Rajesh Bhagotra, President Sugar Association, Munish Mahajan, Sr. Ve.

President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Abhimanyu Gupta, Ve. President, Sham Lal Langer, General Secretary, Vishal Gupta, Secretary and Amit Gupta, Cashier of the Federation, Rajeev Gupta, Rahil Gupta, Nitin

Jammu Bar asks Govt to provide uninterrupted power supply

JAMMU: A meeting of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu was held under the Chairmanship of M.K. Bhardwaj, Sr. Adv & President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu regarding the unscheduled electricity power curtailment in Jammu province.

The meeting was attended by all the office bearers of JKHCBAJ namely, M.P.Singh Palli (Vice President), Surjeet Singh Andotra (General Secretary), Aditya Sharma (Joint Secretary) and Amandeep Singh (Treasurer), and many other learned members of the Association also participated in the meeting.

Bhardwaj has strongly condemned the UT Government of Jammu & Kashmir for their inaction, who have failed even in providing the basic essential services to the people of Jammu province due to which the general public is suffering very badly in this hot summer season.

Bhardwaj further urged upon the Government to concentrate in providing the uninterrupted power supply in Jammu province rather than focusing only on installation of smart meters.

He said that the people of Jammu are regularly paying their monthly rent and without their fault the public should not be suffered any more.

Bhardwaj warned the UT Government that in case the Government fails to fulfill its basic duty to provide uninterrupted power supply in Jammu province, then the Bar Association would adopt agitational path in order to get the grievances of the general public redressed.

Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Sumeet Mahajan, Nikhil Mahajan, Anadi Gupta, Amit Mahajan, Sushil Mahajan, Raju Gupta, Dheeraj Gupta, Sumit Gupta, Keshav Gupta, Ashok Kumar, Sonu Gupta, Sandeep Gupta and Naman Pankaj Gupta, Kunal Gupta, Mahajan was also present.

The 1st unsung victims of Pakistani Atrocities- 1947 Displaced Families from PoJK

J&K Govt in 2014 wrongly excluded 5300 PoJK DP families from PM Package but GoI too upheld that in 2016

There has been no regular Count of 1947 PoJK DPs; still Bureaucracy gives number as total 31,619 families

■ DAYA SAGAR

Some 500-1947 DP families had been so erroneously even disowned by the NC- Congress J&K Government in 2014. It was in the year 1971 that J&K State legislature passed the Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Persons (Permanent Settlement) Act 1971 Act No X of 1971 which was enacted for dealing the affairs pertaining to PoJK DPs-1947 who had been temporarily made to stay on the state lands / evacuated properties till their areas occupied by Pakistan are vacated {An Act to provide for the permanent settlement of displaced persons and for matters connected therewith :- where Section-4 Power to acquire evacuated land for permanent settlement of displaced persons says:->if the government is of the opinion that for the permanent settlement of any displaced person it is necessary to acquire the evacuated land allotted to such person government may at any such time acquire such evacuated land by publishing it in the Government gazette a notification to the effect that Government has decided to acquire such evacuated land in pursuance

of this section:- And where Section- 6 - Act not applicable to certain lands - says :->the Act is not applicable to some lands/ categories particularly :- Nothing in foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply (b) to any land belonging to the state or evacuee which is situated in any area in respect of which a Town planning scheme is sanctioned under any town planning law time being in force or (c) to any evacuee land other than such land which has been allotted under rules forming part of annexure to Government order No. 578-C of 1954 dated May 7- 1954 }where under the families who on account of setting up of the Dominions of India and Pakistan or on account of civil disturbances or fear in area of the State occupied by Pakistan has, after first day of March 1947 left or been displaced from his place of residence in such area and who has been subsequently residing outside such area in the State and also includes the successors-in interest of any such person."The definitions and the provisions in this Act were drawn particularly keeping in view the Displaced Families who had been allotted evacuated or state lands within the peaceful areas of J&K State.

The definition as drawn in the Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Persons (Permanent Settlement) Act 1971 Act No X of 1971 for reference as displaced person cannot be taken as

No X of 1971 defined under Clause-2 the Displaced Persons :- "In this Act- unless the context otherwise requires,(a) - displaced person means any person who is a permanent resident of State and who on account of setting up of the Dominions of India and Pakistan or on account of civil disturbances or fear in area of the State occupied by Pakistan has, after first day of March 1947 left or been displaced from his place of residence in such area and who has been subsequently residing outside such area in the State and also includes the successors-in interest of any such person."The definitions and the provisions in this Act were drawn particularly keeping in view the Displaced Families who had been allotted evacuated or state lands within the peaceful areas of J&K State.

general definition / description for all those subjects of erstwhile princely state of J&K who had been displaced from PoJK in 1947 but it is for dealing with the cases of those displaced persons from PoJK who had been allotted / assigned government or evacuee lands within J&K. But so strangely the J&K Bureaucracy / Governments considered that as the general definition of PoJK DPs for dealing all type of cases like the 5300 PoJK DP families of 1947 out of 31619, which were though well recorded in J&K Government records as displaced families from Pakistan occupied areas of J&K but were staying in Indian states other than J&K, who were excluded from the *proposals sent for one time settlement of Rs. 25 Lakh per family in 2014 by the then NC- State Government.

It was in March 2016 that Divisional Commissioner Jammu / Deputy Commissioner Jammu published on official website (jammu.gov.in) guidelines for Disbursement of Relief of Rs.2000 Cr sanctioned by Ministry of Home Affairs

GOI as one time settlement to Displaced Persons of 1947, 1965, 1971 and invited suggestions / comments from public and in response to that in particular reference to the 5300 families of PoJK DPs registered with government but staying outside J&K it was submitted on 20-03-2016 that Government should not make them the victim of descriptions for 'DPs' as given in 1971 Act since that was not applicable to them and the 1947 PoJK DPs who are not staying in J&K / did not find it feasible after 1947 displacement worth survival to settle with in J&K should be included in the Scheme. It was also suggested that as admitted by GOI and State Government at no time GOI / JK Government have done a regular exercise to register all the displaced persons so that should also be done simultaneously and statement on 'total' numbers should be kept open. Kind attention was also drawn towards the contents of the one hundred eighty third report on problems being faced by refugees and Displaced Persons in J&K as was presented to Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2014 where too such recommendations had been made . It was also

pointed out that the term 'one time settlement' is un realistic and cannot be unilaterally imposed on the suffering families of 1947 PoJK DPs and instead scheme be renamed as "ON Account Payment" to be adjusted against final claims that would be worked out on the basis of individual claim data and norms that may be fixed thereof as and when the time comes for payment of claims against properties left behind in PoJK (if not restored after getting the areas vacated.) It was also pointed out that in the draft note circulated on web no where there is any mention of the basis for amount of one time settlement. But no response had been received. Even the bureaucracy in Centre did not correct the unfair definition picked by state government for Act of 1971 for 'Displaced Person' while conveying the final approvals for disbursement of one time settlement to J&K Chief Secretary vide letter No. 31/01/2011-R & SO dated 22-12-2016 s/d by Director Rehabilitation , FFR Division, MHA, GOI

(The author is a Sr Journalist / Analyst Jammu & Kashmir Affairs dayasagar45@yahoo.com)