

Revoke termination orders of employees of Housing, Health, PHE Deptts: Harsh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Strongly condemning the J&K govt for indiscriminate wholesale terminators of govt servants during corona pandemic, Harsh Dev Singh Chairman-JKNPP and former Minister has invited the attention of the Lt. Governor towards the pathetic plight of the ousted employees rendered Jobless by the insensitive approach of concerned authorities in various Govt Deptts of the UT. He revealed that seven technical experts including 5 females employees engaged in CLTCs under PMAY-HFA scheme of Housing and Urban Development and working since 2017 had been arbitrarily disengaged by virtue of an order issued by the govt on 30th April, the last day of secretariat functioning in Jammu.

He said that no prior notice was served upon the said employees and no reasons were assigned for disengaging the said employees who had been appointed under a proper procedure as envisaged under the prescribed norms. And while the GOI was still funding the scheme, the disengagement of the duly appointed

technical experts was highly unjustified, illegal and unconstitutional, asserted Singh.

Only last month several employees of PHE Deptt working as DRWs, casuals and need based basis were denied their wages on the ground that their services were no longer required. He claimed that around 600 PHE workers of District Udhampur alone had been refused payment of wages by the Deptt by taking the plea that they had failed to comply with the online registration formalities.

"And while the Deptt continued to avail of their services, their wages were denied to them and their names excluded from PHE workers lists due to alleged technical errors in the records, strange but true. And still none to listen to the woes of the said workers during the tough times of rampaging pandemic", regretted Singh.

Singh further recalled the termination of over 1500 health workers during 2020 including staff nurses, Lab and X-ray technicians besides other employees working in the Health Deptt in the most arbitrary and irregular manner thus

snatching the livelihood of thousands of families during the currency of corona pandemic.

He regretted that the said medicos who had been appointed under SRO-24 following a proper procedure and had rendered services to the entire satisfaction of the Deptt had been terminated at a time when their services were needed most by the community.

And while the services of the said professionals were terminated, the govt appointed retired medicos to meet the health emergency in the UT.

Singh observed that the dis-engagement of the said health workers during the ongoing pandemic had not only operated harshly against them but had also deprived the community of their valuable services. He reminded the central and state govts of their tall slogans that none would be terminated during Covid-19 pandemic as also their appeals to the corporate sector not to dis-engage the private workforce. But what actually was being done in J&K had exposed the present govt in bad light, asserted Mr. Singh.

Yudhvir slams Admn for mishandling second wave of COVID-19 Warns Health Deptt of third wave in offing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice-President and Incharge Covid management, Yudhvir Sethi on Thursday slammed administration for not doing enough to contain the alarming surge in Coronavirus cases despite knowing that second wave will be more dangerous while addressing a press conference at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar; here, Yudhvir flanked by BJP State Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Arun Prabhat (Yuva Morcha President), BJP Convener Health and Media Cell Puneet Mahajan and State Executive Member Nitish Mahajan expressed grave concern on the way the J&K Administration was handling the COVID-19 crisis emanating out of alarming second wave.

Criticizing administration for making the CD Hospital a Triage Centre, he said that it is a big mistake as this will waste lot of time of COVID patients putting their lives at risk.

He said that the time is precious in the case of new strains of coronavirus and by this time consuming procedure of bringing patients first to CD Hospital and then shift them to other COVID dedicated hospitals is sheer absurdity and will prove out to be perilous.

He said there is dire need of specialists who are able to deal



J&K BJP Vice-President and Incharge COVID management, Yudhvir Sethi talking to reporters.

with COVID-19 management cases and also able to take decision while referring the patients.

"In absence of oxygen facility in the CD hospital asking patients to first visit this place itself is like signing the death warrants of the serious patients of COVID-19," Sethi said.

The senior BJP leader expressed resentment that the medical department has done nothing in equipping itself to cater to the needs of the people despite the COVID wreaked havoc in the entire region for more than one year. This really is criminal on the part of government. "The Mechanical Wing of health department has miserably failed in doing its job of providing hassle free oxygen to the patients in the GMC and its associated hospitals," he added. Amidst the surge in COVID-19 cases due to which more than four thousands cases are reported on daily basis for the last few days, Sethi said

that government should call the pass out nursing students to take their services till the time the crisis is over.

"There are so many government buildings which can be converted into health facilities. The services of Medical & Paramedical unemployed graduates as well as students can also be utilized in such makeshift health facilities for treating patients having mild symptoms thus reducing the pressure on the main hospitals", he said, adding that the second wave of COVID-19 seems like a psychological war. So, as soon as possible we are able to provide medical service to the people by using the services of Medical & Paramedical graduates as well as students, only then we will win the battle against pandemic. The senior BJP leader also raised the issue of black marketing of oxygen cylinders, oxy meters and the medicines which are considered as Sanjeevani in the present

context. He said that the administration has turned benumb towards such sad state of affairs and is looking at things as a mute spectator.

"There is dire need that the Health Department should release Bulletin on daily basis so that general public should have a clear picture about occupancy and availability of beds in hospitals during any exigency. It is the need of the time that the government should come up with at least 2000 bedded COVID-19 hospital with all the required facilities including uninterrupted oxygen supply to make robust infrastructure ahead of third wave of the contagion as predicted by some of the experts in the field," Sethi added. Yudhvir said that the reports of rise in transmission of this infection in rural hamlets is alarming issue as the same will have dangerous repercussions especially in absence of proper health facilities out there. He said that the situation currently in the J&K UT is quite chaotic as administration seems to be indifferent towards the plight of people and is not doing enough to stop the virus from harming the people.

"In absence of popular government, it's the responsibility of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to take note of hardships being faced by the common masses", he said and appealed to the Lt

Governor to direct the Administrative Officers of J&K to ensure liaison with public representatives so that this crisis should be resolved unitedly and amicably. The senior BJP leader appealed to the Administration to take help of medical experts who have been superannuated to deal with the situation in a better manner. He also appealed to the Lt Governor to note of that the Narayan Super Speciality Hospital are not taking patient for the few days due to which people are facing huge hardships. While appreciating the Lt. Governor for announcing allowances for frontline health-care workers, Sethi demanded the same allowances should also be announced for backend warriors of Health Department.

He also demanded to improve 108 Ambulance Service as presently it was not providing adequate services. He also asked the government to take services of army medical corps in tackling Coronavirus.

The senior BJP leader asserted that this is not the time to sit on things rather a dynamic approach is needed to wipe out disease from the country.

Sethi emphasized that the approach of government in tackling corona is dismal and if the things are not accelerated prudently the situation will get even worse.

Ensure arrangements for essential supplies, ration in Valley: Vakil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Senior Vice President People's Conference (PC) and former Minister Abdul Gani Vakil on Thursday urged LG led administration to ensure full-proof arrangements including essential supplies, ration, and other things so that people would not suffer.

In a statement issued here, Vakil urged people to take care of the destitute, orphans, widows and other victims of fate in their respective localities and appealed people that special prayers should be held in home and Masjids to get rid of deadly COVID-19 that has engulfed the whole country.

"It is a tough time for all of us, we should not lose hope and pray to Almighty Allah for his blessings," he said. Following corona curfew from the past one week, Vakil said people of Valley

could not venture out of their homes to buy essentials, other commodities.

"It is now the responsibility of the UT administration to make the full-proof arrangements for the same," Vakil added.

The senior leader said in view of Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, the administration should release salaries of daily wagers, casual need-based, Contingent paid workers, Anganwadi workers, and others in advance, so that their families will not suffer and have a sigh of relief.

He said even contractual employees, working in different government departments are without salaries for several months together.

They are on the verge of starvation and their salaries should be released in advance so that they can also observe Eid-ul-Fitr with their families, Vakil said.

Billawaria starts blacktopping work in Babliana



BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria starting blacktopping work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria started the work of blacktopping on the main road of village Babliana in Gandhi Nagar constituency.

The work of Blacktopping interior and exterior roads is being done by the PWD at a cost of about Rs 2 crore.

The local residents of the area were also very happy by starting the work of blacktopping on the road. On this occasion, local residents also thanked Billawaria for fulfilling the old demands of the village.

Billawaria said that the pace of development work will not

stop due to Coronavirus and public works will be done in a time bound manner.

He said that development is the mantra of the Modi government and we are committed to get every development done in Gandhi Nagar constituency. Ward 56 Gangyal petrol pump lane which has been declared a cantonment zone.

Billawaria appealed to the people of Gangyal to follow the government's guidelines rather than panic in this corona epidemic.

He said that he is always ready to help the people, in view of this he has issued the phone numbers of active work-

ers at every booth of ward 56, Gangyal. Since the election results in West Bengal, BJP workers have been under constant attack by TMC goons.

On this, Billawaria expressed grief over the killing of BJP workers and said that no political leader should ever have any political distinction in serving the people.

He said that the TMC party should rise above the politics after the victory and do the work of the people and not let the violence go ahead. The one who won the election is the leader of all and he has to do the work of everyone whether he is his voter or not.

He also said that a leader is also rightly identified that he should take everyone along with him, whatever the agenda of his party, but the people have chosen him for his service.

Ranjit Singh, Abhinadan Sharma, Uttam Singh Chib, Ashok Kumar, PWD Department and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

PDP seeks impartial probe into allegations of deep-rooted Admn-mining Mafia nexus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asserting that ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has gone morally bankrupt plunging the entire country into morass, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday demanded impartial and high level probe into the allegations of a deep rooted nexus between administration and mining mafia in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The recent revelation by BJP leaders exposing the alleged corruption nexus within the party and administration was just tip of the iceberg", a PDP spokesperson said in a statement here adding, "The entire system has been made hostage to the ruling dispensation at the Center and every office was being misused to plunder and loot the resources of erstwhile state".

He said that the allegations levelled by BJP leader

against administration and their own leaders including a Union Minister were grave in nature.

"It is known fact that people sitting in New Delhi and few of them in Jammu and Kashmir were pulling strings in administration for their own vested interests and people have been made to suffer," he said. He said that from posting of district heads to the departmental incharges across Jammu and Kashmir was being done at the behest of some BJP leaders and the LG administration was implementing the directives from these leaders.

The transfer industry has flourished well in last two years and the competitive officers were being pushed to walls for known reasons, the spokesperson said adding that even the BJP

leaders in Jammu have surrendered themselves to the wishes and aspirations of those sitting in New Delhi to save their own political career.

"The BJP leaders adopted complete silence when people were suffering but chose to speak only when their own interests were hit", he said. He said that Union Government and LG administration cannot push the recent revelations by BJP leader under the carpet and same shall be probed in order to bring the truth before the public.

"The allegations against a union minister, police and government officials are serious in nature and it is surprising the administration has chosen to maintain criminal silence over the issue", the PDP spokesperson said.

Wake up from slumber, enhance health infra: Chib to Admn

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Accusing the J&K administration of failing to handle the COVID-19 situation in the UT, Hari Singh Chib, President DCC Jammu Rural, said that the helmsmen must have to wake up from slumber and solve health infra issues on war footing.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the Congress leader expressed dismay over the poor state of affairs of the health department of the UT which has drastically failed in catering to the needs of patients infected by the corona.

Hari Singh raised serious concern over shortage of oxygen, ventilators, Covid vaccine and the medicines despite the fact that the disease has wreaked havoc in the region since April last year and the government had

prior information of the second wave of this contagion. He said that to stop further devastation the government should take immediate steps in ramping up the infrastructure also keeping in mind the third wave, which according to some experts will be dangerous for infants and young children.

He said that the need of the time is to enhance the capacity of hospitals by adding more beds accompanied with the oxygen facility besides roping in senior doctors to cater to the needs of people in hospitals located in peripheries of main cities of the UT.

"The excuse of not having prior knowledge of the second wave or the third wave is not at all acceptable because the onus of remaining up-to-date

on such critical issues totally lies on the government", he said and added that the government should work on war footing to defeat corona as soon as possible.

While appreciating the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for taking adequate measures in handling the Covid situation, Hari Singh Chib said that more efforts are required to combat coronavirus by increasing number of beds with ventilators and sufficient stock of oxygen by providing covid 19 treatment at sub district hospitals level also. He also asked the LG Administration to take strict action against those who indulged in the black marketing of oxygen and medicines required for saving the lives of corona patients.

Tarun alleges exorbitant charging for Ambulance services, urges Govt to act tough against culprits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tarun Uppal, Social Activist and Chairperson, Nirbhay Bharat Foundation (NBF) has raised serious concern over the alleged fleeing of the people in distress by some anti-social elements while providing ambulance service at exorbitant rates amidst Covid crisis across the nation.

In a handout issued to media here today, Tarun alleged that it is a matter of great concern that during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic some disgruntled elements are taking undue advantage of the situation to mint money through illegal means.

He said that ambulance services required for patients are being provided by charging fares at the free will of those running these services.

Moreover, the people especially the needy ones are already struggling amid black marketing of Covid related drugs and equipments including the oxygen cylinders, he added.

Uppal, while seeking government's serious attention towards the overcharging for ambulance services, urged the Union Territory administration to fix the fare for this most essential service in the present situation so that people do not face any inconvenience on this count in hour of

crisis. He also suggested to the government to make COVID vaccines available at Jan Anshadhi Kendra as these would be easily accessible by the people in their respective areas.

Asserting that those indulging in overcharging for Ambulance services, black marketing of COVID related drugs and medical equipments are antisocial elements and enemies of humanity and deserve no leniency, he urged the Govt to take strict action against such elements without any delay so that none dares to resort to such anti-social activities in this hour of deep crisis.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To carry out various upgradation/repair works, the power supply to Malpur, Soka, Gurkhal, Rajpura, Griff, TCP and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 07 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Barnai Talab, Dream City, Mahajan Mohalla, Barnal and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 07, 09, 11 and 13 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Likewise, the power supply to Rehari Chungi, Shakuntala and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 11 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Dy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has asserted that Union Govt led by PM Narendra Modi is making full efforts towards ensuring that all the people across the nation get vaccinated. He was speaking at a vaccination centre here today.

The former Dy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta along with Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chander Mohan Gupta visited the vaccination centre at Cooperative School in Marble Market with the Corporator Ajay Gupta and ward president Nitin Thappa also present at the vaccination centre.

While interacting with the



Ex-Dy CM Kavinder Gupta during visit to a vaccination centre at Cooperative School.

people at the vaccination centre the Deputy Chief Minister expressed happiness over their overwhelming response in coming forward in large numbers in order to receive the vaccination dose. He said that the government is making all efforts to ensure vaccination of the by taking it as top-most priority.

He advised the people not to panic in the ongoing crisis even if there would be shortage of vaccine in any as the same would be addressed on priority.

Instead of panicking the people must fully cooperate with the Govt and its administration especially keeping in view the magnitude of the present wave of pandemic.

Kavinder Gupta said that Modi Govt is working round the clock in dealing with the serious situation arising due to this unprecedented pandemic. In this regard the BJP workers are already working 24x7 to reach the people especially the needy at the grass root level. However, as responsible citizens of the world's largest democracy we must play our due role in arresting the spread of the deadly Corona virus, he asserted.

He appealed to the people to strictly follow the requisite SOPs announced by the government from time to time like avoiding moving out of homes until inevitable, wearing appropriate masks, using sanitizers and last but not the least

get themselves inoculated at the nearest vaccination centres.

Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chander Mohan Gupta while speaking on the occasion said that administration is also making all out efforts in fight against COVID-19 and in this regard JMC stands committed to relentlessly work for the health safety of the people.

He that the Corporation with its full men and machinery is conducting sanitation, sanitization and flogging drives in Jammu and assured the people that it would be paced up as per the situation and would be continued till there is some ease in the spread of the deadly virus.

FCI J&K ready to meet any additional requirement of food grains during COVID

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Govt. of India has again announced additional foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), free of cost @ 5kg per person per month to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (AAY, PHH and DBT) over and above NFSA allocation for a period of two months i.e. May and June 2021 in view of the present scenario of COVID-19. Under this scheme, 36205 MT (Wheat: 10490MT and Rice: 25715MT) of foodgrains per month allotted to UT of J&K for 72.5 lakh beneficiaries.

Similarly, 719.5MT foodgrains (Wheat: 212.6 MT and

issued today.



Black marketing of oxygen concentrators, oxy pulse meters, oxy flow meters, medicines needs to be got stopped, on a war footing, Manhas said and exhorted public too to keep a strict vigil over such black marketers and hoarders in their vicinity and report such malpractices before police and civil authorities on their helpline or control room numbers. Manhas said that all philanthropic people and non government organisations need to support and supplement government efforts to fight second wave of COVID-19 in close coordination with the government.

Rice: 507 MT) allotted to UT of Ladakh by which 1.5 lakh beneficiaries will be benefited.

As reported by FCI Regional Office Jammu, the lifting of foodgrains under PMGKAY has already been commenced by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs of both the Union Territories.

The Godowns of FCI having sufficient stock, the man and machinery of FCI are fully geared up to ensure timely delivery of stocks in the pandemic.

The States/UT's have also been requested to make special efforts to encourage the migrant NFSA beneficiaries to use the facility of portability under 'One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Plan'.