

Bhadarwah potential destination of Agri-tech Start-Ups: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that Bhaderwah is the potential destination of Agri-tech Startups.

Addressing an impressive public rally after inaugurating the country's first 'Lavender Festival' here, the Union Minister described Bhaderwah as the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution.

Dr. Jitendra said that the country's first lavender festival in Bhaderwah has been possible today only by the progressive thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who after taking the oath as PM in 2014 stressed that the regions which have been disconnected from the mainstream India must be connected to the mainstream through development.

Today's Lavender Festival in the valley of Bhaderwah is the best example of develop-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public rally after inaugurating the country's first 'Lavender Festival' at Bhaderwah, on Thursday.

ment of present progressive government at the centre which should have been celebrated much earlier, Bhaderwah being the best place for lavender cultivation in terms of land and climate, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also said that the development prospects of PM Modi led government for the far-flung areas like Bhaderwah can also be judged from the fact that the country's first National Institute of High Altitude Medicine is being built in Bhaderwah which will attract scholars and researchers not only from India but across the globe generating employment opportunities for the region.

The establishment of this institute is a proof of developmental initiatives reaching

far flung places at an unprecedented rate compared to the last seventy years, Dr. Singh added.

The Minister said that the medical college at Doda and other distant places in J&K was not the priority of previous governments which shows that this government is leaving no stone unturned to take development to the

farthest corners of the country. About the development of roads in Doda and Bhaderwah, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the connectivity to Doda and Bhaderwah earlier through roads was unsatisfactory due to the threat of landslides especially during rains. But, the construction of roads and tunnels have made the dis-

tance easier now, Dr. Singh maintained.

The Minister said that the Bhaderwah-Bani-Basohli Highway, Chattergala Tunnel under Bharatnala, Khillani-Marmat-Sudhmahadev Road connecting Hambal and Kalota, Bhaderwah-Chambal Highway & tunnel, the all weather roads being constructed will open new vistas of development for this region. Dr. Singh also inaugurated six distillation units under CSIR-IIM for lavender situated at six different places. Three MoUs were also signed between CSIR-IIM Jammu with Agro Voltic Power, Mussoorie Uttarakhand, Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar Punjab and Fine Fragrance Power Limited, Mumbai.

Mehbooba's action exposes double standards of Kashmir politics: Sunil Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Statement of Chief of PDP, Mehbooba Mufti on mourning counts increasing in Kashmir and her sympathy with artist Ambreen who had been brutally killed by terrorists, exposes double standards of Kashmir Politics, said Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party in a press release. "She is keeping friendship with wolves and also shedding crocodile tears for sheep killed by wolves," BJP J&K Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi said and added, "Before making such statements Mehbooba Mufti must realize that it is her support tactical and political which has brought destruction to Kashmir." Sunil Sethi said that attempt to bracket terrorists and their victims in the same line is very unfortunate and inhuman. The solution to



problem lies in finishing terror network in Kashmir once for all so that lasting peace comes to Union Territory, he said. He added conviction of Yasin Malik is also strong indicator to these anti-nationals and inhumane that end of violence will be in jail or elimination.

Now that largely peace has returned and people especially in Valley are happy with return of Tourism, it is not being digested by these leaders who had been surviving politically on deaths and destruction, Sethi said. He further applauded the efforts being made by administration and security forces to enforce law and order in Union Territory which assures protection and safety to all citizens. He asked these leaders to work for the people instead of merely doing instigation and misleading campaigns.

Sham listens to public grievances at BJP headquarter



J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

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JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister accompanied by Balbir Ram Rattan, J&K BJP Spokesperson listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Numerous individuals and deputations from various areas visited BJP headquarter to present their concerns regarding various issues comprising development, administrative and personal issues. Majority of the deputations presented their issues regarding electricity, water supply, road connectivity, CAPD etc. A deputation of Casual labourers presented their concerns. Former JAKFED employees' welfare Union also presented their concerns through their deputation. A deputation of Jammu Migrants shared their issues. Sham Lal Sharma listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that BJP leaders are daily listening to the public grievances in the party headquarter. He said that they are taking up the issues of public with the authorities immediately for their redressal. He said that this exercise is proving beneficial for the masses as they are now getting a proper platform to share their issues.

JKP officers contribute towards improving education system of Police Public Schools

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To improve the overall quality of education in J&K Police Public School, Miran Sahib, Jammu a CBSE affiliated Higher Secondary School- Police Officers have started taking interactive classes on various subjects and providing career counseling on the directions of Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu Zone, Administrative Officer, J&K Police Public School, Miran Sahib.

In pursuance to this novel initiative, ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh took mathematics classes for class 10th which he promised to continue in future also.

During his visit to Police Public School the ADGP Jammu advised the students to focus on their studies and urged



them to be interactive during classes.

SSP Shahzad Salaria took science classes and some more senior officers including Kulbir Singh SSP and Mubasir Latif SSP shall be taking classes in History and Political science this week.

This is a unique scheme designed by JKP officers to

contribute their bit towards improving the education system of Police Public Schools and to give a fresh vigour to the functioning of Police Schools.

Renu Khurdi, Principal, J&K Police Public School, Jammu thanked the ADGP Jammu for initiating such lectures and his guidance about career counseling for students.

Kapil Sibal joins SP

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Significant reformist decisions taken in meeting of J&K Waqf Board: Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board on Thursday convened its Board meeting at Srinagar under the Chairpersonship of Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

Board Members Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, Nawab Din & Syed Mohammad Hussain also participated in addition to Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer Mufti Fareed, Special Officer Dr Syed Majid Jahangir & other heads of the Wings of Waqf in J&K.

A full day review of the Waqf Departments was done and many important decisions were taken.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi spoke to the media about the meeting and the decisions taken. "Sanction to construction of first ever modern Cancer Hospital by Waqf Board was granted. Soon we will be beginning work on the project."

"A very important decision was taken that donation boxes at all shrines will only be opened under camera surveillance supervised by the Board representative along with the bank & police officials to establish transparency in donation accounts," said Dr Andrabi.

She said that Waqf has started reforming its working and with public support we hope to transform Waqf into a transparent & accountable

organization. Board took a decision that no lease of Waqf assets & properties will be in vogue now for residential purposes.

Many correcting measures were taken wherein many practices of the past were revoked so that Waqf assets don't become properties of anybody.

She informed that a decision to restructure the inner organization structure as per Central Waqf Act was taken.

"We have also taken a very important decision that modern Toilet Complexes at all shrines will be made on priority. Decisions regarding creation of facilities for pilgrims at shrines were taken," said Waqf Board Chairperson.

She also said that she has a very capable team in the Board and we have taken a decision to stop all cash transactions and shift to online mode in all transactions.

Waqf Board also accorded sanction to provide the facility of online donation at Shrines in J&K.

Dr Andrabi appealed to the people to cooperate with the Board so that we are able to establish this huge institution into a productive organization working for the revival of our spiritual traditions and creating a social service sector out of our sources.

PoJK DPs-1st unsung victims of Pakistani Atrocities: Keep count of their assets like that of Evacuee properties?

- 5,300 PoJK DP families staying outside paid ex-gratia of Rs 3,500, but denied Rs 5.5 Lakh OTS Why?
- Narendra Modi can open 'Channels' but boats have to be peddled by his Colleagues & Bureaucracy
- There has been no regular Count of 1947 PoJK DPs, still Bureaucracy gives number as total 31,619 Families

► Vacation of PoJK: Reply to RS Q. NO. 2957 21-03- 2018: ▶

- India is committed under Simla Agreement & Lahore Declaration for peaceful & bilateral discussions

■ DAYA SAGAR

The PoJK DPs 1947 were not treated as refugees from Pakistan and hence were not paid any claims for the properties left back in PoJK in terms of the policy of the government of India to arrange their return to their hearths by getting the areas vacated by Pakistan. One hundred eighty third report on problems being faced by refugees and displaced persons in J&K was presented to Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2014 and also laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 22nd December 2014 too at Para 16 of report says : 1. The Committee agreed with the stand of Ministry of Supply & Rehabilitation, ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Law/ Justice/ Company affairs as regards the stand taken against registration property claims for payment of compensation for the properties left behind in POK but the Committee recommended to Ministry of Supply and rehabilitation (Department of rehabilitation) to consider and implement the alternative proposal that a lump sum grant on the pattern of monetary assistance is paid.

As per note furnished by Ministry of Supply and Rehabilitation (Department of Rehabilitation) GOI in 1978 to Rajya Sabha Committee on petitions as per Appendix II of the report { Sixty Second report dated 11-04-1980 of the Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha headed by Sh. Bipin Das (MP) presented in Rajya Sabha on 13-06-1980.} the matter regarding registration of

claims for the properties left by displaced persons in 1947 in Pak occupied areas of Jammu & Kashmir had been considered by the Government in consultation with the concerned ministries and the main objections to the proposal were 'POK' is a part of India but it is under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan hence any registration of claims/ losses of the 'refugees' from POK would certainly bring in the question of possibility of eventual compensation for the properties left in POK area.

There was also references in report like saying that <pursuant to discussions held by Chief Minister of J&K State with the Union Minister of Works, Housing, Supply and Rehabilitation in August 1978, the State government represented to the GOI that in view of the facts that areas recaptured in wars of 1965 and 1971 were given back to Pakistan; Chhamb areas which fell on our side of the ceasefire line have also been handed over to Pakistan; and ceasefire line has been replaced by line of actual control the "question of taking over POK would seem to be unrealistic (may be state government meant in near future), so even if it is assumed that these areas may be taken back, it may not be possible for Mirpur displaced persons to go back and settle there since after construction of Mangla dam and Mirpur town along with the large adjoining areas have been submerged under water", so the State Government had accordingly suggested that in lieu of non registration of losses of the dis-

placed persons from POK the GOI might provide funds in some other form.

It was also mentioned the report that as per information provided by government to Committee on Petitions that to start with the Joint Rehabilitation Board headed by the then Major General Tara Singh Bal that had also 13 members from J&K State Government had decided/ assessed to allot to DPs, land measuring upto 12 acres Abi/ 18 acres Khushkhee which can surely reflect the genuine quantum of compensation that the agricultural families deserved at that time. No doubt the scales were later changed which was surely due to non availability of state lands. Later Cabinet Order No. 578-C sanctioning rules for allotment of agricultural land in respect of displaced persons and locals was issued. which provided allotment of land as per strength of each family keeping the maximum limit at 4 acres abi / 6 acres khushkhee and minimum 2 acres Abi/ 3 acres Khushkhee.

Not only that even the information compiled by bureaucracy at occasions for government for sharing with Parliament / committees has at occasions been not that exacting / matching that factual and have remained unattended even by the stake holders like has been the case of replies given on 11th February, 2020/Magha 22, 1941 (Saka) to unstarred Lok Sabha Q. No. 1485 (Displaced People From POK) from Col.

Rajyavardhan Rathore where in reply Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs (G. Kishan Reddy) based on the information provided to him by the bureaucracy had said that as per the Registration records maintained with the Provincial Rehabilitation Officer (PRO), Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) both the Government of India and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have been providing several relief/rehabilitation packages from time to time to the displaced families of PoJK & Chhamb. For the displaced families of 1947 which stayed in J&K, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir had allotted agricultural land ranging from 4 to 8 acres per family. Those who settled in urban areas were provided plots/quarters besides cash ex-gratia of Rs. 3500/- per family. For those families which did not get land allotted as per prescribed scales, cash compensation was sanctioned by Government. Others were allotted land /plot/quarter as per fixed scale for their rehabilitation. The displaced families which did not settle in Jammu & Kashmir were paid an ex-gratia of Rs. 3500/- per family at the time of their registration

In order to mitigate the hardships of the displaced families, the Government of India under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015, approved a rehabilitation package with an outlay of Rs. 2000 crores on 22nd December, 2016. Under the package, financial assistance of Rs. 5.5 lakhs per family (Central share is

Rs.5,49,692/-and the State share is Rs. 308/-) is provided to the 36,384 displaced families of PoJK and Chhamb, which settled in Jammu & Kashmir. In September, 2019, the Government of India has further approved the inclusion of those displaced families of PoJK, out of 5,300 families, who initially moved out of Jammu and Kashmir, but later on returned and settled in Jammu and Kashmir. Such families will also be eligible for the financial assistance of Rs. 5.5 lakh per family"

To be brief on the other hand in case a family had left back in PoJK property worth Rs.1000 in 1947 that money by banking standards would have become with 10% per annum interest & quarterly compounding worth Rs.10.24 Lakh in 2017 and with 12% interest even in 2013 as Rs.20,56,000. The Sharnarhi Action Committee demanded assistance in proportion to the assets left behind by individual families and not at some arbitrary uniform rate to all. No registration of PoJK DPs was done in general and numbers that are quoted by Government are of only those who belonged to particular categories and hence there were many families who had not applied and are today nowhere listed in government records. Similarly there are some families who had applied but their applications were not found eligible in view of not being from eligible categories and hence were not paid any ex gratia / given any land/ given any one room house.

So, there are some families who

were neither paid claims for their assets left behind nor were they paid any token ex gratia hence where ever government has deposited to committees that government has adequately provided assistance to all PoJK DPs 1947 families has been surely not correct.

Surely the popular governments in the State / Centre have remained not properly informed about the real status / needs of these 1st victims of Pakistani designs because there has so far been no dedicated department in J&K for attending to their issues and the present arrangement in provincial rehabilitation officer is surely under equipped keeping in view the infrastructure provided and the scope of the duties assigned.

So there is a must need for putting up a regular dedicated department for PoJK DPs who might have grown to over 150000 families by this time. In case for technical reasons government cannot compensate them in the shape of claims for their left behind properties, fair enough, but government should not have any problem in documenting the left behind properties of the 1947 PoJK DPs (after calling details from these families) in a dedicated department as has the government kept the record of the evacuee properties of those who migrated from J&K to Pakistan in 1947. Otherwise many beyond third generation may not be able to draw the details.

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