

BUDGET SESSION 2026: QUESTION HOUR

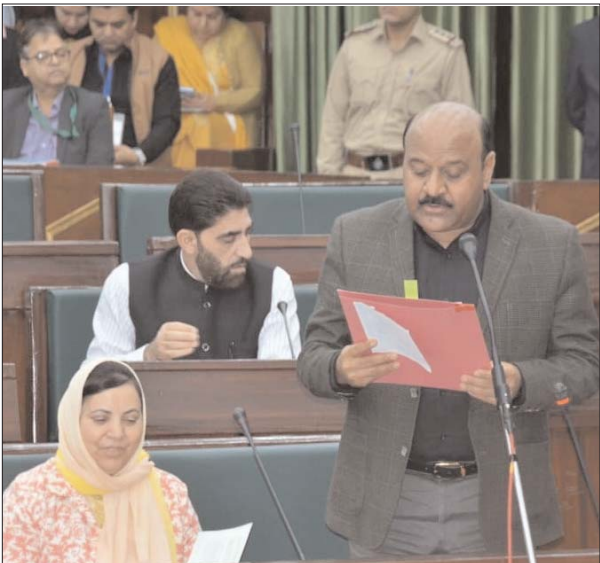
DPR preparations for Razdan Pass Tunnel to commence shortly: Dy Chief Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, stated in the House that preparations for the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 8-km Razdan Pass Tunnel in Bandipora district will commence shortly.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), in the Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the project Tunnel at Razdan Pass shall



facilitate all weather connectivity to the strategically important border constituency, Gurez.

He said that construction of Tunnel at Razdhan Pass has been endorsed by MoD (Ministry of Defense) to provide all weather connectivity. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the regular snow clearance is being done by BEACON for providing connectivity to Gurez sector. He added that the road is kept closed for nearly one month and partially closed during winters due to snowfall and for safety of road users.

Deptt focusing on strengthening of healthcare facilities as per IPHS-2022 norms: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the department is presently focusing on consolidation and strengthening of the existing healthcare facilities broadly as per IPHS-2022 norms to improve the healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Health Minister stated this in reply to a question raised by Legislator Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo) in the Legislative Assembly.



ther said that the department has accorded sanction for up-gradation of NTPHC Pahalgam to the level of 50 bedded Hospital along with creation of 26 posts of different categories. She added that against the sanctioned strength of 38 posts, 17 posts of doctors and para-medics have been filled up, which included 03 Consultants, 01 Medical Officer and 01 Dental Surgeon. The Minister also said that efforts are afoot for filling up of vacancies through recruiting agency besides ensuring promotions. She added that during the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, availability of doctors, paramedics and other support staff is significantly enhanced as per actual requirement. She further said that the construction of 50-bedded block at Pahalgam Hospital is steadily pro-

gressing. She added that an additional block for the hospital is under construction at a cost of ₹1889.90 lakh against which ₹1100.00 lakh expenditure has been incurred.

She said that during the current financial year 2025-26, an amount of ₹340.00 lakh has been released to the executing agency out of approved allocation of ₹400.00 lakh. Besides, additional funding is also approved under SASCI to speed up the pace of work.

“Truss work is complete and finishing works are in progress. The equipment shall also be made available in a phased manner in line with requirements of the hospital within budgetary resources”, she said.

Giving further details,, the Minister said that the department is not considering establishment of

Trauma Hospital between Qazigund and Pahalgam, as these institutions require specialised manpower and other allied support staff besides high end equipment and modular operation theatres. She added that two Trauma Care facilities, Trauma Hospital Qazigund and Trauma Centre at Government Medical College Anantnag, are available en-route Qazigund and Pahalgam to meet the trauma related and other healthcare requirements. She said that Trauma Hospital Bijbehara, 4 km away from Khanabal-Pahalgam-Qazigund road, is also available.

During the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Health Minister said that health camps are being established to provide medical facilities to the pilgrims. These included augmenting hospital men, machinery and ambulance services in the existing health institutions like PHC Mattan (additional block under construction), SDH Seer Hamdan, PHC Aishmuqam and 50-bedded Hospital Pahalgam.

She apprised the House that PHC Aishmuqam has already been made operational on 24x7 basis to cater to the medical needs of devotees visiting Ziyarat of Sakhi Zain-U-Din Wali (RA) Aishmuqam.

Budgam Ring road drainage system functioning well: Dy Chief Minister

JAMMU, FEB 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today said that the drainage system was functioning satisfactorily to facilitate proper disposal of surface and sub-surface water near Ring Road in Budgam.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA, Ali Mohammad Dar in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that that a detailed technical assessment for drainage and cross-drainage structures was carried out at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage, pursuant to which adequate provisions were incorporated in the design. He said that as many as 148 Box

Culverts, 107 Hume Pipe Culverts (HPCs) and 24 Minor Nallah Bridges (MNBs) were incorporated to facilitate proper disposal of the water.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that presently there is no persistent issue of water-logging at the box culverts on the newly constructed Ring Road including Khanda, Kuzwaria, Bugam, Wathora and other locations.

However, he said that temporary accumulation noticed during the construction phase of the Greenfield project was addressed after completion of the structures and the drainage system is functioning satisfactorily.

He further said though

**4142 Kanal land transferred for Industrial Estates in Anantnag: Dy CM**

As many as, 13 land patches comprising 4142. 43 kanal of land have been transferred to the Industries and Commerce department for establishment of Industrial Estates in Anantnag district.

This was informed by the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary while replying to a question raised by Legislator Abdul Majeed Bhat in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the land patches are located at various locations like Pahalgam, Bijbehara, Dooru, Shangus, Mattan and other spots in Anantnag district.

However, the Deputy Chief Minister said as of now no Industrial Estate exists in Anantnag West Constituency and no such proposal is under consideration in the department.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to bolster Industrial sector to accommodate unemployed youth and address unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

there are no reports of water logging issues, however, if required the same shall be addressed through measures including additional constructions.

NTPHC Haripora functioning in Govt building, land being identified for Sumbal centre: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo today informed the Legislative Assembly that NTPHC Haripora is already functioning in a three room government building of Health Department.

She was replying to a question raised by MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session.

The Minister informed the House that augmentation, if any, may be consid-

ered in the interest of patient care, as and when such need arises.

She further said that for construction of a building for NTPHC Sumbal, which is currently functioning in rented accommodation, Deputy Commissioner Gandheral has been requested to identify suitable land.

“As of now, no funds have been sanctioned or proposed for construction of the NTPHC building, which shall be considered after the formal transfer of encumbrance-free land and availability of budgetary resources in a phased manner,” she added.

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HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Adequate compensation or ex-gratia relief is provided in cases of human injury or loss of life under the prevailing policy framework on human-wildlife conflict in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Sajad Shaheen.

Legislators, Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Kaiser Jamsheed Lone and



Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi raised supplementary questions on the subject. They urged the government to provide adequate relief measures and ensure inclusion of the agriculture sector

and livestock under the relevant schemes to safeguard farmers’ interests.

Responding to their concerns, the Minister said that currently there is no approved policy or budgetary

provision specifically earmarked for compensation of livestock losses due to wildlife attacks in the Union Territory.

However, he said that the government is in correspondence with the Animal Husbandry Department to provide compensatory support to the farmers in case of loss of animals.

He said that the Forest Department is in talks with the Agriculture Department and other concerned authorities regarding the inclusion of additional crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in case of damage by the wild animals.

DC Samba conducts Public Outreach Programme at Kehli Mandi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan today conducted a Public Outreach Programme at Kehli Mandi to address the grievances and demands of local s.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner listened patiently to various issues raised by the public. Key demands projected by the residents included development of a playground for football and cricket, renovation of the local pond, improvement in sanitation and cleanliness, installation of dustbins, strengthening of the drainage system in the locality, and construction of at least two toilets for the community hall.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that sanitation is a fundamental component of sustainable development and urged the public to adopt civic sense and actively participate in main-



taining cleanliness. She directed the concerned officers to prepare a proper roster for regular cleaning of the area and ensure strict implementation of waste segregation practices, including separation of dry and wet waste.

She further instructed the officials to organize special camps for disposal of long-

pending arrears and stressed the need to address public concerns on priority.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected Shaheed L/Hav Raghbir Singh Memorial Government Girls Middle School and directed the concerned authorities to ensure construction of a proper drainage system for

smooth functioning of the institution. She also instructed that toilets for the community hall be constructed at the earliest.

The outreach programme was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Samba, Ajay Bharti along with other concerned officers/officials and a large number of local residents.

16 Water Supply Schemes approved for Khawas block under JJM: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

The villages of Khawas Block, including Kanchol and Marutha in Budhal Constituency, are being covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to ensure provision of safe and adequate drinking water.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana informed this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Javid Iqbal in the Legislative Assembly today. He stated that 16 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) have been approved under JJM for the area.

He said that four schemes have been completed, while the remaining are at various stages of execution.

The Minister informed that despite ongoing works, the region has experienced prolonged drought-like conditions in recent years, coupled with scanty rainfall, leading to depletion of certain water sources during peak summer months. He informed that the borewell source of WSS Budhal has also been adversely affected, impacting sustainability and resulting in acute shortages in some habitations during the lean summer period. However, he said that as an interim measure, drinking water requirements are being met through water tanker services.

To address the long-term source sustainability, three Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) namely WSS Badhal-B, WSS Kotecharwal, and WSS Kotranka have been prepared and are under consideration. These projects will augment the existing schemes and extend coverage to left-out and higher-altitude habitations, stated the Minister.

36 Health Sub Centres, PHCs functioning in Reasi Constituency: Health Minister

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today informed the Legislative Assembly that 36 Health Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are functioning in Reasi constituency, with 175 personnel currently in position at these institutes.

The Minister was replying to a query raised by Legislator Kuldeep Raj Dubey, regarding the status of health facilities in the constituency.

She stated that out of the sanctioned strength of 163 regular staff, including MLPs, FMPHWs, sanitation workers and other categories, 101 are presently in position. Similarly, out of 78 sanctioned staff under the National Health Mission (NHM), 74 have been deployed in these health centres.

The Minister further informed the House that three medical/paramedical staff members have been attached or deployed at places other than their original postings, with special reference to the Reasi constituency.

She also said that the villages of Drabi Panchayat, Harotekote and Dhakikot Panchayat (Dhakikote) currently do not have any Health Sub-Centre or PHC.

“However, these areas do not meet the minimum criteria required for establishment of Sub-Centres/PHCs as per IPHS norms 2022,” she added.

**28,186 AWCs operational in J&K: Itoo**

Minister for Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that 28,186 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are currently operational in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this in reply to a question raised by Legislator Arjun Singh Raju regarding Anganwadi Centers in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that 26,937 AWCs are operating from rented premises. She added that construction of permanent buildings for AWCs shall be considered in a phased manner, subject to the availability of funds and land.

The Minister further said that the matter regarding opening of new Anganwadi Centres that fulfill the criteria would be examined for submission to GOI.