

BUDGET SESSION 2026: QUESTION HOUR

Rs 45.824 Lakh allotted for sports infra in Ramnagar constituency: Satish

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 04

An amount of Rs. 45.824 Lakh has been allotted for undertaking sports infra-structural activities in Ramnagar constituency.

This was informed by Minister for Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, IT, Science and Technology, Youth Service and Sports Satish Sharma while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister said that in addition to the above, work on up-gradation of Raja Ram Singh Stadium to a Multipurpose Sports Stadium Ramnagar is in progress. "A fund of Rs. 5.73 Lakh has been spent out of the Rs. 17.00 Lakh released, so far. The



total approved budget for the project stands at Rs. 20.00 lakh.". The work is under execution and likely to be completed by the end of October 2026", he added.

He said that steps are being taken for equitable development of sports infra-

structure in the region, and new demands shall be examined subject to availability of funds and technical reports therein, whenever a proposal is received in the department.

"The department regularly organizes sports tournaments, coaching camps, youth engagement programmes and awareness activates to promote sports culture and identify and nurture talented youth in the constituency. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the sports facilities in schools and community playgrounds to encourage greater participation of youth in sports and physical activities", he maintained.

Legislator R S Pathania and Balwant Singh Mankotia also raised a supplementary to the question.

Govt formulates comprehensive R&R plan for Sawalkote Project: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 04

The Government has formulated a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) plan for the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project, taking into account the extent of impact on the local communities.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta in the Legislative Assembly, on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Minister said that the rehabilitation plan included compensation measures for the landowners and a range of rehabilitation and resettlement entitlements in accordance with the standard practices for all affected districts. "Therefore it won't be prudent to say that Udhampur district is out of commensurate development benefits," he said.

The Minister informed the House that the project components fall across three districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ramban, Udhampur and Reasi, with



Ramban district bearing the maximum submergence and emerging as the most affected district in the Union Territory.

The Minister further informed that out of the total land requirement of 1,401.35 hectares for the project, Ramban accounts for the largest share at 1,097.55 hectares, followed by Udhampur with 197 hectares and Reasi with 106.8 hectares.

With regard to submergence, it was informed that out of 1,158.75 hectares of total land, Ramban accounts for 1,030.55 ha (88.94%), Udhampur for 63 ha (5.44%) and Reasi for 65.2 ha, firmly establishing Ramban as the most af-

ected district in the Union Territory.

The Minister provided a detailed breakdown of project components across the three districts. He informed that the diversion tunnel, right abutment of the Dam and right bank tunnels fall under Reasi district, the adit of right bank tunnels, most of the submergence area and other construction facilities fall under Ramban district while the Powerhouse, main tunnel and left abutment of the Dam are located in Udhampur district. On the question of road connectivity, the Minister noted that the road connecting Jammu city to Ramban is an all-weather

road being maintained by NHAI while the road connecting Ramban to Zero Morh is constructed and maintained by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Regarding the shortest and most logical Pancheri-Lander-Galiote route, the Minister informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared based on technically feasible and commercially viable site conditions and has been duly approved by the Central Electricity Authority, Union Ministry of Power, outlining all project features including access roads to various project components.

The Minister further noted that the proposed road from MH Morh to Chakka is a single-lane route with high maintenance costs and would not be suitable for transportation of heavy machinery and equipment required for construction of the project. He added that the selection of access roads depends on detailed engineering and economic considerations and any change at a later stage could result in construction delays and cost overruns.

Marh sports infra gets boost: Satish Sharma elaborates upgradation Plans

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 04

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that the department has taken up several sports related schemes and initiatives for promotion of sports infrastructure in Marh Constituency.

He was replying to a question raised by Legislator Arvind Gupta on behalf of Surinder Kumar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that in Marh constituency, the department has undertaken renovation of playfield Marh for Rs. 1 crore and presently the work is in progress with 50 percent completion. He further said that the work on construction of synthetic vol-

leyball court at High School Suriyachak with an allotted cost of Rs. 15.50 Lakh and development of playfield at Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School Phallian Mandal with an estimated cost of Rs. 31.65 Lakh has also been completed.

The Minister further said that the government degree college Marh has been allotted 51 Kanal and 11 Marla of land at village Dhateryal Marh, where construction of the college building is presently in progress. "As the college is currently functioning in pre-fabricated structures, sports infrastructure such as indoor sports hall, gymnasiums and athletic track will be taken up after completion of the first phase of completion of the college building", he added.

"About 9233 activities related to coaching camps, talent hunt initiatives, scholarships and other activities have been taken up in Jammu district. Besides, 143 sports activities including tournaments of different sports have been conducted in the district from November 2024 to February 2026", informed the Minister. The Minister also informed about several sports related schemes and initiatives for development of sports infrastructure, organizing district and state level tournaments, providing sports uniform to the students and supporting training programs for young athletes are also being undertaken in the constituency.

The Minister said that awareness and participa-

tion programs are also being conducted in school and villages in Marh constituency. He said the constituency is also being benefited from J&K Sport Policy 2022 which emphasizes talent identification, mass participation, structured coaching and incentives for sports persons. "Regular coaching camps, training Programmes and sports competitions are being organized in collaboration with the recognized sports association, enabling youth to participate in the district, UT and national level events. These sustained efforts have significantly enhanced Youth engagement, encouraged a sports culture and provided a strong platform for the aspiring athletes in the constituency", he added.

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The compensation for proprietary acquired land is determined strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and the National Highways Authority Act, 1956.

Land compensation determined as per Land Act 2013: Javed Rana

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay. He was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in the House today.

The Minister informed the House that discrepancies have been observed in certain cases between the

actual use of land as orchards and the classification recorded in revenue records in the Kashmir Division. It stated that, as per inputs from the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, such variations generally arise in cases where the land use has been changed over time from agriculture to horticulture by the land owners themselves without following the prescribed procedure under law.

The government further said that revenue records are updated regularly during Rabi and Kharif harvest inspections, in accordance with the Standing Order No. 22 (Jamabandi) and Standing Order No. 23-B.

On the issue of additional compensation or relief, the government reiterated that the matter is governed by the existing legal framework and no separate provision is envisaged.

SED focusing on strengthening existing infrastructure, staff availability in upgraded schools: Sakeena

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 04

Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo on Saturday stated that the School Education department (SED) is presently focusing on strengthening the existing infrastructure and ensuring adequate availability of teaching staff in the upgraded schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Rafiq Ahmad Naik in Legislative Assembly today regarding upgradation of schools.

She informed that a feasibility report has been submitted by the Chief Education Officer to the



Directorate of School Education, Kashmir for upgradation of High School Jawahirpora Lam to the level of Higher Secondary level.

She mentioned that

High School Jawahirpora Lam's nearest Higher Secondary School is Higher Secondary School Satoora, about 6 km away.

The Minister said that the area has some popula-

tion belonging to tribal communities but the upgradation of schools is subject to the fulfilment of laid down criteria and feasibility norms like distance, feeding schools and top-class enrolment, which are prerequisites.

She added that at present there is no proposal under consideration for up-gradation of schools to the next higher level, as the department is prioritizing consolidation of infrastructure and provision of teaching faculty in already upgraded schools.

The Minister added that High School Jawahirpora Lam and High School Midpora will be considered for up-gradation as proposals come up.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 04

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana today informed the House that pumping machinery has been installed at all six tube-well locations in Hiranagar Constituency.

This was stated by the

Pumping machinery installed at six tube-wells in Hiranagar: Javed Rana

Minister while replying to a question in Legislative Assembly raised by MLA Rajeev Jasrotia on behalf of MLA Vijay Kumar.

It further stated that in villages like Kadyala, Chak Changa, Karol-Matharian, Splawan and Bobiya, the irrigation infrastructure including channels, pump rooms and delivery

tanks, have been completed and is currently operational.

However, he acknowledged that in certain locations like Kadyala and Chak Changa, the works related to distribution networks and allied civil infrastructure could not be executed due to land disputes and other con-

straints.

The Minister assured the House that the pending works shall be taken up once the land-related issues are resolved and subject to availability of funds. It will be ensured that the intended benefits of the irrigation scheme are fully extended to the farmers of the area.

Zero Hour: Legislators raise key public issues

JAMMU, APRIL 04:

Several important public issues were raised by the Members during the Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today, seeking timely intervention and action from the government.

MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir raised the issue that fuel required for agricultural and horticultural machinery is not being adequately provided to the farmers in South Kashmir in view of the restrictions on loose sale of fuel by petrol pump.

MLA Rajiv Jasrotia demanded bifurcation of ration cards so that the deserving citizens can avail the benefits of various social welfare schemes of the Union Territory and the Central Government.

MLA Khurshid Ahmad demanded that Gool Gulabgarh be granted the status of a Pahari district.

MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia sought that copies of speeches and proceedings of the House be provided to all legislators as per the past practice.

MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami highlighted the shortage of LPG and de-

manded that people who have not yet registered for e-KYC should also be facilitated to receive benefits, with necessary directions issued to the concerned authorities.

MLA Ghulam Mohi-uddin Mir raised the issue of equitable distribution of irrigation water between the areas of Pulwama and Budgam districts as the issue could spiral into a controversy between the people living here.

MLA Ali Mohammad Dar demanded shifting of Sub-division Kanipora of Chadoora Division from Rambagh area to its original place for the easement of people.

MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi sought installation of an ATM facility at a Wahab Khar Sahib shrine in his constituency for the convenience of devotees.

MLA Qaysar Jamshaid Lone demanded desilting of canals in his constituency to improve the irrigation facilities.

MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) highlighted the issue of pending rent for land used by defence forces, seeking immediate

release of payments to the owners.

MLA Mubarak Gul highlighted the need for desilting of canals and nullahs in his constituency.

MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan raised concern over high prices of building materials and alleged black marketing due to the closure of crusher plants in his constituency.

MLA Javid Riyaz Bedar demanded repair of irrigation lifting pumps and adequate power supply to operate these units so that the farmers do not suffer during the agricultural season for breakdown of machinery in these lift stations.

MLA Shakti Raj Parihar pointed out that Doda district is an accident-prone area and demanded priority provision of medical staff, paramedical facilities and ambulances there.

MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board aspirants who qualified examinations and sought implementation of directions issued by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal regarding their ap-

pointments. He also demanded compensation for the families whose houses were damaged or acquired during road widening.

MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi urged the government to convene advance meetings to ensure proper arrangements for the upcoming Muharram observances.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone sought clarity from the administration regarding the questions related to commercial leases given by the government.

MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary raised the concern over engagement of teaching staff in Indian Census duties, stating that it adversely affecting the students' studies.

MLA Zafar Ali Khatana demanded exemption from permission requirements for the tribal communities who migrate seasonally to Kashmir Valley with their cattle on foot.

Multi-pronged strategy in place to mitigate porcupine threat to saffron fields: Javed Rana

JAMMU, APRIL 04: The Government today informed the Legislative Assembly that a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy is being implemented to address porcupine-induced damage to saffron crops in Pampore and adjoining areas, with field evidence confirming active presence of the species in the region.

This information was given by Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi.

The Minister said that habitat conditions such as caves, crevices, hilly terrain and overgrown private lands provide favorable shelter for porcupines near saffron-growing areas.

To mitigate the issue, the Government has proposed a series of measures, including clearance of caves,

bushes and undergrowth in coordination with the Revenue Department and Panchayati Raj Institutions. He added that these measures include installation of deep-set mesh barriers (up to 1.5 metres underground) around vulnerable fields; protection of orchard trees using aluminum wrapping and reflective coatings; plantation of naturally repellent species such as iris, wormwood and wild yam; use of organic repellents and olfactory deterrents like naphthalene; and deployment of motion-activated lighting and sound systems.

The Minister further informed that the Agriculture Department in collaboration with the Saffron Research Station, Dusoo, Pampore, is documenting the extent of damage to develop long-term scientific management strategies.

He added that a dedicated Man-An-

imal Conflict Control Room has been established at Khrew, along with regular night patrolling, installation of capture cages for live trapping and awareness campaigns for farmers.

Addressing concerns regarding monkey intrusion in agricultural fields at Wahab Sahib, Pampore, the Minister said that while monkeys are currently not listed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, awareness initiatives are being undertaken and firecrackers are also being distributed to farmers as a deterrent.

He added that a coordinated, time-bound action plan involving the Agriculture, Revenue and Wildlife Departments, along with local communities, is being formulated to address the issue through field protection, habitat management and long-term population control.