

AJKAOWF Seeks Immediate Correction of Pay Scale Anomaly for SMS, Programme Officers

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The All Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Officers Welfare Forum (AJKAOWF) has submitted its final representation to the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, J&K, seeking immediate rectification of an alleged pay scale anomaly affecting Subject Matter Specialists Grade-III (SMS Ext./FM) and Programme Officers.

The comprehensive representation, submitted through proper channel under Ref No. AJKAOWF/2026/Rep-02, follows a high-level meeting attended by around 50 office bearers and delegates from across the Union Territory.

According to the Forum, the anomaly originated from an alleged clerical omission in Government Order No. 296-F of 2010, wherein the words “& equivalent” were inadvertently left out during revision of pay scales. The Forum contends that the omission resulted in SMS Grade-III and Programme



Officers being placed in Pay Level-8 (Rs 47,600-1,51,100), while Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers (SDAOs) were placed in Pay Level-8A (Rs 50,700-1,60,600).

The Forum has cited SRO 179 of 1988, Government Order No. 14 of 2005 and subsequent orders under SRO 726 and 727 of 2019 to support its claim that SMS Grade-III, Programme Officers and SDAOs have historically enjoyed parity in Grade Pay of Rs 5,200 corresponding to Level-8A.

The AJKAOWF has also raised objections to the proforma circulated by the Agriculture Production De-

partment through communication dated August 19, 2026, stating that its present formulation could result in senior officers being shown in a lower pay level than comparatively junior officers holding the post of SDAO.

The Forum has sought issuance of a corrigendum to Government Order No. 296-F of 2010 by retrospectively restoring the words “& equivalent” and extending Level-8A to SMS Grade-III and Programme Officers.

It has further demanded correction of the official proforma to reflect the claimed historical equivalence and sought protec-

tion of the seniority and statutory parity of eligible officers in the forthcoming Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) exercise.

The meeting at which the decision to submit the final representation was taken was attended by Forum President Rajesh Langer, executive members Sanjay Anand and Aman Jyoti Sharma, besides other senior representatives.

The Forum has urged the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department to examine the matter at the earliest and take appropriate administrative action to resolve the issue before the upcoming DPC exercise.

BJP misleading people of Jammu, ignoring genuine issues: Dy CM

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Deputy Chief Minister, J&K, Surinder Choudhary today accused the BJP of misleading the people of Jammu and deliberately ignoring the genuine and burning issues confronting the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with media persons at the JKNC Provincial Headquarters, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, in the presence of Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC Jammu; Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary; Vijay Lochan, Chairman, S.C. Wing; S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Provincial President, YNC; Rakesh Singh Raka and Dilshad Malik, Vice Presidents, Central Zone; Rajni Devi, President, Women Cell; and Gurnam Singh, District Secretary, besides other party functionaries.

Referring to the meeting of Amit Shah Hon'ble Home Minister and Omar Abdullah Hon'ble Chief Minister J&K who discussed the main issues of restoration of Statehood,



rationalization of reservation, finalisation of business rules and the upcoming first international filmfare festival in Srinagar. Mr Surinder Choudhary hoped that following Omar's meeting the Hon'ble Home Minister Amit Shah will fulfil the promise he has made in parliament, the promise made before the Supreme Court and the promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding restoration of Statehood.

Questioning the BJP's silence on several important issues concerning Jammu, Surinder Choudhary asked why the BJP was not raising its voice over the appointment of outsider Vice-Chancellors in Jammu's universities. He also ques-

tioned why IAS and IPS officers belonging to J&K were being transferred outside the Union Territory instead of utilizing their services for the development and administration of J&K.

The Deputy Chief Minister further questioned why, during the period 2014–2024, vacant government posts were allegedly not filled adequately, depriving educated and unemployed youth of employment opportunities. He also sought an explanation as to why several developmental works remained incomplete or were allegedly delayed during the same period.

Surinder Choudhary said that the BJP should stop misleading the people and instead come forward

with a clear account of its performance and address the genuine concerns of the people of Jammu.

He said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to accelerate and inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir and has been giving focused attention to key sectors, including Roads & Buildings, drinking water supply, electricity, health-care, education and other basic infrastructure.

The Deputy Chief Minister also met several deputations at the party headquarters, who apprised him of various demands and problems concerning their respective areas. He gave them a patient hearing and issued necessary directions to the concerned authorities for prompt examination and resolution of their genuine issues.

Surinder Choudhary assured the deputations that the Omar Abdullah-led government would continue to work for the welfare of the people and ensure that their legitimate concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner.

Eye Donation Rally Held to Spread ‘Gift of Sight’

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Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital (SVMCMH), Amphalla, in collaboration with SOTTO J&K, Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu, and Global Association of Indian Medical Students (GAIMS), organised an Eye Donation Awareness Rally here today to encourage people to pledge their eyes and help restore vision to those suffering from corneal blindness.

The rally was flagged off from the Indian Red Cross Society premises by Dr. Manpreet Kour, Medical Officer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, along with SVMCMH office-bearers, including President Amar Chand Gupta, Senior Vice President B.B. Gupta, General Secretary B.S. Jamwal, Secretary Dr. Jatinder Gupta and Treasurer Mo-



han Singh Chouhan.

The event was held under the guidance of Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, IAS, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K and Joint Director, SOTTO J&K.

Doctors, medical and dental students, hospital staff, volunteers and members of the public participated in the rally, which culminated at SVMCMH, Amphalla, carrying the message of the “Gift of Sight.”

Dr. Suruchi Gupta, Senior Eye Consultant, SVMCMH, highlighted the crucial role

of eye donation in tackling corneal blindness and informed that 11 corneal transplant procedures have already been successfully performed at the hospital. She urged people to come forward and pledge their eyes, stressing that timely donation can restore sight to those who have lost vision due to corneal blindness.

Dr. Manpreet Kour described eye donation as a noble act of service to humanity and appealed to the public to support the campaign.

Medical Director Dr. Arvind Kohli reaffirmed SVMCMH's commitment to promoting eye donation, while Amar Chand Gupta and B.S. Jamwal, invoking the hospital's philosophy of “Nar Sewa Narayan Sewa,” urged people to join the campaign in large numbers.

Representatives of GAIMS J&K from Government Medical College Jammu and ASCOMS also participated and delivered presentations on eye donation and eye health awareness.

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JKPCC Chief Spokesperson & former MLC Mr Ravinder Sharma today addressed a gathering at Sunderbani as part of “Chopal pe charcha” programme of AICC and highlighted various burning issues including Chanda Chori, Paper leaks, Unemployment, unprecedented price hike & power tariff.

A large number of prominent leaders, activists and office bearers of DCC and Block Presidents & newly appointed office bearers of Sunderbani, Devak and Siot were present on the occasion.

The new office bearers were felicitated and garlanded on the occasion and asked to constitute Halq Panchayats and booth committees in the areas.

Addressing the gathering Ravinder Sharma said that Modi government and BJP are trying to divert the attention of the nation from



the real issues like “Chanda Chori”, Students issues, economic issues, unemployment, price hike and failures on various fronts.

He said BJP has been trying to cover up and hide behind the other issues being raised by them to divert the attention of the people from these real issues faced by people and great economic distress faced by every common man in this country.

He said that unprecedented price hike of all essential commodities, large scale unemployment faced by the youth and paper leaks and bunglings in recruitments throughout the

country and unprecedented price hike are real issues facing country.

The youth and students of the country face tough time of their career and for livelihood under Modi government and the recent students protests at Jantar Mantir and elsewhere in the country was the outbursts of their anger, frustration.

There is a silent revolt like situation against Modi government and BJP all over country as youth see a bleak future & want change in the system and leading a revolution in the society who are encouraged by the dynamic leadership of LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi.

Several other prominent Congress leaders and activists spoke on the occasion and took part in the interactive session. Prominent including Block Presidents NC Sharma, Ajit Singh, Tirth Ram Sharma, Yog Raj Sharma, Joginder Singh, Thoru Ram, Raj Kumar Raina, Ashwani Kumar, Rajv Chadha, Deep Kumar, Om Parkash, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Ved Sudan, Babu Ram Bhagat, Ch Anwar, Altaf Hussain, Gurmeet Singh, Sahil Govind Sudan, Hassan Mohammed, Ch Akram, Pankaj Raina, Patel Kumar, Tilak Raj, Suresh Damral, Puran Chand, Lok Nath, sagar Sharma and others.

Congress Holds “Chopal Pe Charcha”, raises “Chanda Chori”, Paper Leak & Statehood issues

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 05: The District Congress Committee Jammu Urban today organised a “Chopal Pe Charcha” programme at Chattha, Jammu Urban, as part of its ongoing campaign against the “Chanda Chori” issue, while directly connecting with the people and highlighting issues affecting the public across Jammu and Kashmir, led by JKPCC President and Hon'ble MLA Tariq Hameed Karra, along with Working President PCC Raman Bhalla and Former Minister & President DCC Jammu Urban and Yogesh Sawhney, DCC President Jammu Rural Neeraj Kundan, accompanied by senior Congress leaders, office bearers, workers and a large number of local residents. The event was organised by Amrit Bali, Incharge Jammu South/RS Pura constituency.

President PCC Karra, raised serious concerns over the “Chanda Chori” issue and the committee constituted by the government, which they termed an eyewash, besides highlighting paper leaks and the plight of students, the “Chhatron Ki Goonj” campaign, and the demand for restoration of J&K's statehood. He said that instead of addressing genuine public grievances and ensuring transparency, the BJP government was attempting to divert attention from core issues affecting the people. Karra maintained that the “Chopal Pe Charcha” campaign, primarily focused on exposing and highlighting the “Chanda Chori” issue, would continue to provide a platform for ordinary citizens to voice their concerns and hold the government accountable. The programme also strongly criticised the BJP for what Congress leaders described as “crushing the sentiments of Jammu and Kash-

mir”, particularly on the question of statehood and the future of the youth.

Addressing the gathering, President PCC Tariq Hameed Karra said that the “Chopal Pe Charcha” initiative was being taken directly to the people to expose the truth behind the “Chanda Chori” issue and create an open forum where citizens could speak freely about the problems confronting them. He said the campaign would ensure that issues of public accountability and transparency do not remain confined to political discussions but are taken directly to the people. Karra said the growing concerns over paper leaks, recruitment and examination-related irregularities had deeply affected the confidence of students and educated youth, who were already facing unprecedented unemployment. He said that young people who spend years preparing for competitive examinations deserve a fair, transparent and accountable system, and any compromise with the examination process amounts to playing with their future. Referring to the “Chhatron Ki Goonj” campaign, he said Congress would continue to amplify the voices of students and demand accountability wherever their interests were being compromised. He further criticised the BJP government over the continued denial of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the people had repeatedly expressed their desire for restoration of their democratic and constitutional rights. “Statehood is not a favour to the people of J&K; it is their legitimate right and a question of dignity and democratic representation,” Karra asserted. He said Congress would continue to raise these issues both inside and outside the institutions



of democracy and would not allow the genuine concerns of the people to be silenced.

Karra further hit out at the government over what he described as an attempt to divert public attention through committees and inquiries that fail to inspire confidence among the people. Referring to the “Chanda Chori” issue, he said that merely constituting a committee cannot substitute for a transparent and credible investigation and that the people deserve to know the truth. He said the Congress would continue to question the government on every issue concerning public accountability, whether it relates to donations, unemployment, paper leaks, statehood or the rights of students. Karra maintained that the BJP had repeatedly ignored the sentiments of Jammu and Kashmir and was adopting a politics of delay and diversion in-

stead of addressing the fundamental concerns of the people. He said Congress would strengthen its grassroots campaign against “Chanda Chori” and take the message of accountability to every locality through programmes such as “Chopal Pe Charcha”. He appealed to people, particularly the youth, to remain united and raise their voices democratically, assuring them that Congress would continue to fight for justice, restoration of statehood and the protection of the democratic rights and aspirations of the people of J&K.

Also addressing the people, Working President PCC Raman Bhalla said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be made to pay the price for administrative failures; every paper leak destroys the dreams of thousands of students. He said that the repeated concerns surrounding examinations, recruitment and paper leaks reflected the

growing frustration among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that thousands of students devote years of their lives to preparing for competitive examinations with the hope of securing employment, and when the examination system is compromised, it is not merely an administrative lapse but a direct assault on the aspirations of an entire generation. Bhalla said Congress would continue to stand with students through the “Chhatron Ki Goonj” campaign and ensure that their voices reach the government. He also criticised the government for failing to address the demand for restoration of statehood, saying that the people of J&K deserved elected institutions with meaningful powers and democratic accountability. He said the “Chopal Pe Charcha” programme was an important grassroots initiative through which Congress was taking the “Chanda Chori” issue and other public concerns directly to the people, instead of restricting political engagement to closed-door meetings. Bhalla added that the BJP must stop ignoring the sentiments of Jammu and Kashmir and start responding to the legitimate demands of its people.

DCC Jammu Urban President & Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney said that “Chopal Pe Charcha is the voice of the people, and Congress will raise every genuine public grievance.” He said that the purpose of the “Chopal Pe Charcha” campaign was to take the “Chanda Chori” issue directly to the people, bring politics closer to them and give ordinary citizens an opportunity to openly discuss the issues that affect their daily lives. He said the people of Chattha and adjoining areas had expressed serious concerns regarding unemployment, examination irregulari-

ties, paper leaks, the future of students and the continued delay in restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Sawhney said the Congress would continue to highlight these issues with determination and would not allow the government to hide behind committees or diversionary measures. He particularly questioned the credibility of the committee constituted in connection with the “Chanda Chori” issue, saying that the public expects transparency and accountability rather than what appears to be an eyewash. He said that Congress workers would continue reaching out to people across Jammu Urban and documenting their concerns through grassroots programmes. Sawhney added that the BJP must understand that the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot have their sentiments ignored indefinitely, and asserted that Congress would continue its democratic struggle for statehood, justice for students, accountability and the protection of the rights and aspirations of the people.

Senior leaders and party members including Vijay Sharma Chief Sewa Dal, Satish Sharma Incharge Bahu, Vice Presidents DCC Rajinder Singh, Ravinder Chib, Vijay Sharma Biju, Pawan bhagat Vice chairman SC department, Block Presidents Gurmeet Singh, Pardeep bhalla, Sanjiv Katal, Bhushan Kumar, Yashpal Bhagat, Varinder Manhas, Latish Sharma, Sunil Slathia Distt General secretary, Baldev Singh Wazir, Raj Bhagat Distt Secy., Ramesh Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Iqbal dhar, Sanjeev Vaid bitti, Santosh sharma, Sonu Dogra, Sunita Sharma, Parshotam Bhagat, Raman Gupta, Kewal Bhagat, Happy Randhawa, and others were part of the program.