

JAMMU & KASHMIR

3

Govt undertakes adequate relief, restoration measures in flood-affected Poonch, Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 29

The government today informed the House that adequate measures have been undertaken for relief and restoration in Poonch and Rajouri districts of the Pir Panjal region, affected by recent flash floods and landslides.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Ajaz Ahmad Jan, on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, who holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction,

The Dy CM stated that the situation is being closely monitored, with efforts focused on restoration of road connectivity and essential services, preparation of an action plan for permanent restoration of dam-

aged infrastructure and disbursement of approved relief among affected families.

Regarding the relief measures, the government informed that ?400 lakh were approved for Poonch, of which, ?216.379 lakh were made available under SDRF and disbursed to affected families. In addition, ?137 lakh received under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund have been fully utilized and disbursed.

In Rajouri, ?218.14 lakh have been disbursed under SDRF as per prescribed norms while ?281 lakh received under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund are being provided to 377 affected beneficiaries.

On the action plan for permanent restoration of roads, bridges, water supply, power and other affected public infrastructure, the government said Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been prepared and are under ac-

tive consideration. In Poonch, DPRs amounting ?21,403.92 lakh have been prepared covering education, power distribution, roads and bridges, power, water supply and khuls.

In Rajouri, DPRs amounting ?46,022.57 lakh have been prepared for works under the Public Works Department, Jal Shakti Department and Sub-Transmission infrastructure.

Giving details of casualties and damage to private property, the government said that in Poonch, the flash floods and landslides claimed 14 lives while eight persons remain missing and two were injured. Besides, 379 houses, around 200 livestock and 44 poultry birds were affected while 217.7 hectares of agricultural land and 2 hectares of horticulture land were damaged.

In Rajouri, four persons lost their lives while 432 houses were affected

and 48 livestock were lost.

On restoration of connectivity and essential infrastructure, the government said that in Poonch, 388 roads, 55 bridges, 72 water supply schemes and 29 power distribution transformer stations/transformers were damaged. All roads and 11 bridges have been temporarily restored while other essential infrastructure has also been restored on a temporary basis.

In Rajouri, 562 roads/bridges, 5,283 poles, 27 distribution transformers, 228 water supply schemes, 112 irrigation and flood control schemes, 23 schools, eight health infrastructure units, 1.9 hectares of horticulture land and 517 hectares of agricultural land were affected or damaged. Temporary restoration of the affected infrastructure was completed within one month of the calamity.

Omar Abdullah says clerical errors being rectified in J&K land records

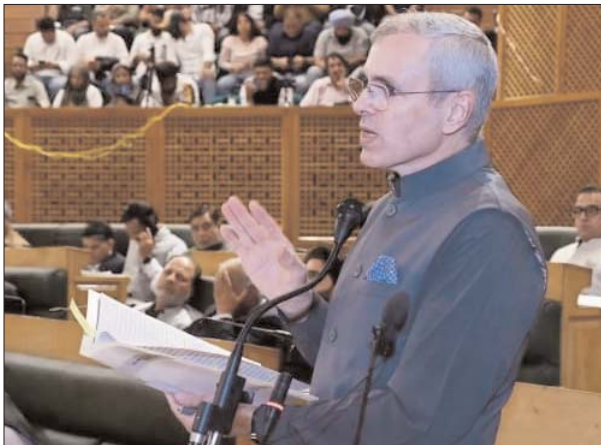
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 29

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that more than 1.3 million clerical errors in land records have been identified and rectified as part of the ongoing digitization and verification of Jamabandis across Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Devyani Rana during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said that verification of digitized Jamabandis is currently under progress in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said a robust digitization process, followed by an extensive error-rectification mechanism, has been put in place to ensure that the digitized Jamabandis are accurate and error-free.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the land-records system has been transitioned from a static Oracle SQL-based database to a dynamic PostgreSQL platform. Under close supervision, error correction has been undertaken across the entire land



records, with more than 1.3 million clerical errors identified and rectified.

He said each entry in the digitized record is subjected to a three-stage verification process through the Maker-Checker-Approver framework. A digital record is also maintained of any changes carried out in the Jamabandi to ensure accountability and traceability.

Highlighting measures taken to enhance public confidence in the land records, the Chief Minister said more than 6,800 village-level grievance redressal camps have been held across J&K for public reading of land records and disposal of grievances.

He said the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal has been developed to enable the

public to view their land records online and register grievances. The grievances registered through the portal are monitored to ensure their timely disposal.

The Chief Minister further informed that, in collaboration with BISAG-N, a robust and secure Backlog Mutation Module has been developed for systematic updation of Record of Rights (RoR) data up to the year 2026.

For effective supervision and field-level verification, Senior Revenue Officers have been designated as District Mentors and Prabhari officers. UT-level, district-level and inter-tehsil verification teams are also engaged in the verification of digitized records.

Responding to the question regarding pending

mutations, discrepancies and correction cases between original/manual revenue records and digitized Jamabandis, the Chief Minister said the verification process is underway across all districts and the same institutional mechanisms are being used for identification and rectification of discrepancies.

On the issue of erroneous Jamabandi entries affecting ownership, inheritance, partition or transfer of land, the Chief Minister said digitized records have been made available on the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal, enabling landowners to inspect their records and submit grievances. Verification has also been undertaken through grievance camps and the digitization portal.

He said grievances involving clerical or other non-quasi-judicial errors are examined and corrected by the competent revenue authorities under the prescribed procedure.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the ongoing verification, error-correction and grievance-redressal mechanisms are aimed at ensuring accuracy, transparency and accountability in Jammu and Kashmir's land records.

Cement units using Pet Coke to install advanced pollution control systems: Dy CM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 29

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today informed the Legislative Assembly that cement plants using pet coke as feedstock will install advanced pollution control systems.

Replying to a question in the House, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the proposed systems include Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) System with sulphur removal efficiency of over 90 percent, along with alkaline scrubbers and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs).

He said the initiative is aimed at curbing emissions and ensuring compliance with the environmental norms.

The Dy CM was speaking while replying to Calling Attention Notice raised by MLA Justice (Retd) Husnain Masoodi regarding the continued use of Pet Coke by cement factories in the Khrew-Khanmoh area and the alleged pollution threat to human and animal life.

Surinder Choudhary,



who is also Minister in-charge Industries & Commerce Department, informed the House that the department primarily has a facilitative role while compliance with the pollution-control norms falls within the statutory mandate of the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that registration of eligible industrial units/MSMEs is accorded through the concerned District Industries Centre(s), subject to fulfilment of all codal formalities and requirements prescribed under the Industrial Policy in vogue. This includes obtaining the requisite con-

sent to establish and operate from the J&K Pollution Control Committee.

He clarified that monitoring and enforcement of prescribed pollution-control norms and standards fall within the statutory jurisdiction of the J&K Pollution Control Committee.

Surinder Choudhary informed that as per information received from J&K PCC, the provisions governing the use of Pet Coke as feedstock in cement/lime kilns, calcium carbide and gasification industries have been specified in the Jammu and Kashmir Pet Coke Furnace Oil Policy issued by the Industries & Com-

merce Department.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed the House that the use of Pet Coke is permitted in industries/processes where it is used as feedstock, including calcined Pet Coke and aluminium industries, or where it is absorbed along with the product during the manufacturing process, such as cement kilns and calcium carbide industries, in accordance with the Supreme Court.

He said that cement plants using Pet Coke as feedstock, where it is absorbed along with the product in the manufacturing process on an actual-user basis, are required to comply with the specific safeguards, such as the units are required to seek authorization under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, as the sulphur content in Pet Coke is above five per cent.

The Dy CM also informed that the units have further been directed not to store Pet Coke beyond three months' consumption and procure it only from the registered dealers.

HP Governor pays obeisance at Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple

SHIMLA, SEP 29: The Hon'ble Governor Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavin-der Gupta along with Lady Governor Smt Bindu Gupta ji today paid obeisance at the historic Shri Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple at Shimla and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh.

The Governor prayed to Lord Hanuman and sought blessings for the progress and welfare of the State. He also visited the temple complex and took note of its rich spiritual heritage and its deep connection with the faith and traditions of Shimla.

On the occasion, the Governor recalled the revered saint Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj, whose spiritual association with this sacred place occupies an important place in the history and tradition of the Sankat Mochan Temple. According to the tem-



ple's tradition, Baba Neem Karoli Ji Maharaj spent time in meditation at this serene location and expressed his desire to have a temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman established here. Inspired by his vision, the construction of the temple was subsequently undertaken, with the shrine con-

secrated in 1966.

The Governor said that the spiritual legacy of saints and sages has enriched India's civilisational heritage and continues to inspire people towards devotion, compassion, service and harmony. He said that places of faith such as Sankat Mochan Temple are

not only centres of spiritual solace but also symbols of the timeless cultural and spiritual traditions of Himachal Pradesh.

The Governor also prayed for the continued peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the progress of the nation.

J&K set to offer 100 high-footfall government services through WhatsApp

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 29

In a significant step towards making public service delivery more accessible, convenient and citizen-friendly, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the preparedness of the IT Department for the early rollout of an AI-powered conversational messaging platform that will enable citizens across Jammu and Kashmir to access government services directly through WhatsApp.

The meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, IT was attended by other Administrative Heads, Deputy Commissioners; senior officers and a team from NeGD, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NIC and senior officers from IT Department.

The initiative envisages onboarding 100 high-footfall government services in the first phase, allowing citizens to apply for essential services, track applications, submit documents, make payments and receive official communications through WhatsApp without the need to download separate applications or navigate multiple government por-

tals.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation roadmap for the proposed Multi-Channel Conversational Messaging API Solution, which will leverage Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to provide an integrated, multilingual and interactive interface for accessing government services.

Emphasising the importance of simplifying government-citizen interactions, the Chief Secretary observed that the initiative should substantially reduce procedural complexities, minimise physical visits to government offices and make essential public services accessible to citizens from the comfort of their homes.

He stressed that the platform should particularly benefit people living in rural and remote areas by providing a familiar, user-friendly interface capable of functioning even on low-bandwidth internet connections.

The Chief Secretary directed the IT Department to work in close coordination with the concerned line departments to expedite backend integration of the identified services and ensure their seamless delivery through the proposed platform.



He further called for comprehensive performance benchmarking, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and adequate training of government functionaries to ensure the platform's smooth and effective rollout.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Saurabh Bhagat apprised the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir currently offers 1,710 e-services through various digital platforms, including e-UNNAT, ServicePlus and Revenue Plus. Of these, 100 frequently accessed services have been identified for onboarding in the first phase to

maximise public outreach and ensure immediate benefits to citizens.

These include issuance of Income, Domicile, Caste, EWS and RBA certificates, besides access to land records such as Fard, Girdawari, Jamabandi and Mutation under the Revenue Department.

Similarly, services relating to issuance and renewal of driving licences, vehicle ownership transfers, payment of e-Challans and fancy vehicle number e-auctions are proposed to be integrated from the Transport Department.

Under the Housing and Urban De-

velopment Department, citizens will be able to access services relating to Birth and Death certificates, commercial establishment NOCs and building construction permissions.

The platform will also facilitate access to various social welfare schemes, including Ladli Beti, marriage assistance and post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarships. Other identified services include electricity and water bill payments, ration card modifications, agricultural schemes under HADP, JKSSB registrations and pilgrimage-related services. Highlighting the key features of the proposed platform, the IT Department informed that it would offer multilingual support in Urdu, Hindi and English to ensure wider accessibility across Jammu and Kashmir.

The platform will also incorporate a one-time registration and Single Sign-On (SSO) mechanism, eliminating the need for citizens to repeatedly enter their personal details while accessing different government services. A unified citizen database is also envisaged for seamless integration with the Family ID system.

Other proposed features include AI-assisted conversational interfaces, Optical Character Recognition

(OCR)-based document processing and validation, secure integration with multiple payment gateways, automated grievance escalation mechanisms and modular workflows for document submission.

Regarding the progress achieved so far, the Department informed that a dedicated System Integrator has already been onboarded through the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) empanelment framework to facilitate the implementation of the project.

It was further disclosed that JK SAMADHAN 2.0, the government's public grievance redressal platform, has been selected as the first service for integration. A functional working demonstration featuring a multilingual citizen interface has already been developed and showcased, marking an important milestone towards the operationalisation of the proposed platform.

Taking note of the progress, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the ultimate objective of the initiative should be to bring government services closer to citizens by leveraging widely used digital technologies, ensuring that people across Jammu and Kashmir can access essential public services with greater ease, transparency and convenience.