

Rajasthan fails to achieve targets

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DISPROPORTIONATELY low achievements compared to financial targets and actual expenditure are revealed in almost all the major programmes in Rajasthan in the report of the comptroller and auditor-general of India for 1982-83.

The report, which was released here yesterday by the accountant general (audit), Mr. S. C. Anand, referring to the rural health programme says that only 16 and 25 per cent of the targets of the new public health centres and sub-centres were opened. Against the target of 59 referral hospitals, only 25 could be opened.

Only 6,218 workers were trained for the implementation of the programme against the target of 10,556 workers. Again, as contemplated in the scheme, neither doctors visited primary health centres nor interns spent their training period in district hospitals.

The budget allocation of Rs. 2.59 crores for the dry land development scheme, which was aimed at increasing production by teaching farmers new technology of production at research centres of Jodhpur and Valabh Nagar was not fully utilised, the actual expenditure being only Rs. 1.52 crores.

The piggery programme, instead of increasing the income, resulted in indebtedness to farmers. Till March, 1983, only 125 units against the target of 500 units were set up at a cost of Rs. 12.41 lakhs. But only 48 units were in operation in April 1983 and the remaining units to which a subsidy of Rs. 83,000 was paid, had closed down.

If the district industries centre (DIC) programme in the state could not be implemented as planned, the response to the scheme of interest-free loan to industries was poor. The report says till March, 1983, only 10 of the 26 DIC buildings could be completed while 54 key posts of general managers, functional managers

and district industries officers were vacant.

SOLAR LIGHTING (Jaipur, TOINS): Solar street lighting has been introduced in Rajasthan, thanks to the efforts of the Rajasthan Electronics and Instrumentation Limited (REIL).

The lighting system developed by REIL has been installed on an experimental basis in Bindsaka village in this district.

Twenty poles have been erected in the village. Each pole is 10.5 feet high with a solar panel at the top, while there is one battery in an iron box. There is a connection from the battery to the panel.

The battery which is charged through solar energy has a capacity for preserving energy for 10 days.

States News

has got an automatic switch which lights 20 fluorescent tubelights and automatically puts it off in the morning.

This system which is neither expensive nor involves recurring expenses, is useful in areas and villages where it is not possible to erect electric pole.

A pole costs Rs. 8,000 of which Rs. 3,000 is available as subsidy from the state government. The balance amount is provided by the Centre. The tubelight and the solar panel have been manufactured by the Central Electronics Limited.

ENGINEERS' AGITATION (Jaipur, TOINS): Power engineers of Rajasthan, who have been agitating for about a month demanding higher wages, began work-to-rule on Monday.

The Rajasthan power engineers action committee, which has continued the stir despite acceptance of some demands and announcement of concessions by the Rajasthan state electricity board recently, has threatened to plunge the entire state

into darkness if the work-to-rule fails to move the authorities.

Punjab

DIVALI SPIRIT (Amritsar, TOINS): With life in Amritsar returning to normal faster than expected, there has been a large influx of visitors on Diwali eve.

For over one week, lakhs of people from all parts of the country have turned up to take part in the "kar seva" of the Golden Temple "sarovar" (sacred pool).

Despite the decision of the high priests that there would be no Diwali festivities in the Golden Temple and no illuminations and fireworks in protest against the "killing" of "innocent" persons during the army action and in police encounters, lakhs of people including many Sikh villagers, are seen buying goods in the overcrowded bazars and lanes of the city. The rush of visitors to the Golden Temple also continues unabated.

This year's Diwali has given a big boost to trade. The wholesale markets are humming with unusual activity this year after a depression of over two years in the wake of the disturbed conditions in the state. Cinema houses and restaurants and sweet shops are crowded.

Almost all the Hindu temples in the city, including the big Durgiana mandir, are preparing for the usual display of fireworks and illuminations.

Karnataka

COMPENSATION BY GOVT. (Belgaum, TOINS): The Karnataka minister for industry, Mr. V. L. Patil, distributed Rs. 78,000 as compensation to 42 persons injured in the recent disturbances in Belgaum city on Monday.

He told newsmen the government had also released Rs. 1.61 lakhs as compensation to 48 people whose property was damaged or destroyed in the violence.

The district authorities, he said, had recommended the release of Rs. 48,000 for the repair of eight places of worship damaged in the riots and payment of compensation to 148 people whose properties were destroyed. In another 13 cases the government had been asked to provide interest-free loans of Rs. 48,000. If necessary, a ministerial sub-committee would review the amount of compensation so far paid, Mr. Patil added.

GOLD SEIZED (Belgaum, TOINS): Sixteen strips of gold weighing almost two kg. and worth about Rs. 4 lakhs were seized from a registered goldsmith travelling by bus from Bombay to Mangalore on Monday. Excise and customs department officials said the goldsmith had been taken into custody.

INVITATION TO PM (Bijapur, TOINS): Backward class members of the Congress, at a meeting here on Sunday, decided to invite the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the party general secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to contest the forthcoming parliamentary from Bijapur.

FIRE IN FACTORY (Bangalore, PTI): Foam and other goods worth Rs. 10 lakhs were destroyed in a devastating fire in a foam rubber factory at Yeshwanthpur near Bangalore on Monday afternoon.

According to fire service sources, seven fire tenders fought for four hours to extinguish the fire which is said to have been caused by an electrical short circuit.

Orissa

CPI TO CONTEST 2 SEATS (Bhubaneswar, PTI): The communist Party of India will contest two of the 21 Lok Sabha seats from Orissa in the forthcoming elections.

This was decided at the two-day meeting of the Orissa state council of the party which concluded in Bhubaneswar on Saturday, according to a press release.

The party also decided to make electoral adjustments with the opposition parties barring the ruling Congress (I) and BJP in the state and to extend full support to the combined-opposition candidates.

Uttar Pradesh

VIDHAN SABHA ELECTIONS (Lucknow, PTI): The U.P. chief minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, said on Sunday that the holding of elections to the state vidhan sabha along with the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections was not feasible because of "certain practical difficulties".

"Simultaneous holding of the Lok Sabha and state Vidhan Sabha elections is not feasible in a populous state like U.P." Mr. Tiwari told reporters at a "meet the press" programme organised by the U.P. Press Club in Lucknow.

In reply to a question, the chief minister said any sort of ban on religious processions would not be practical as it would hurt the religious sentiments and also violate the constitution.

He said his government would endeavour to ensure free and fair elections and that there was no coercion of voters, even of the "Harijans" and those belonging to weaker sections.

On the question of elections to local bodies, he said he was doubtful if they could be held before the Lok Sabha polls.

ARRESTS UNDER NSA (Lucknow, PTI): As many as 262 people have been arrested under the National Security Act for various offences in the state till October 19 according to an official spokesman in Lucknow on Monday.

BOMBS THROWN IN COURT (Kanpur, UNI): Five persons, including a lawyer and a National Security Act detainee, were seriously injured when two unidentified persons lobbed bombs in the civil courts compound in Kanpur on Monday afternoon.

According to the police, all the injured were rushed to the hospital. A search is on to track the gang.

The police said the bombs were thrown when the NSA detainee, Ateeque, was discussing something with others in the lawyer's chamber.

Old enmity between two gangs of the Nai-Sarak area was stated to be motive behind the incident.

Tamil Nadu

SCIENCE MEET (Madras, PTI): A technical meeting on the "Application of titanium, tantalum and other reactive metals in electrochemical industries" will be organised by the Society for advancement of electrochemical science and technology (SAEST), Madras chapter, in Madras on November 5.

The titanium, tantalum, and other reactive metal electrodes are used in electrochemical and other industries especially in the chlor-alkali industries. These newly developed electrodes offer many advantages like saving in electrical power, long life, ease of replacement and so on compared to the conventional electrodes like graphite, lead dioxide and platinum. The meeting will give an opportunity to industrialists to exchange views with scientists in view of the constant use of these metals

in their electrochemical plants. A number of experts in the field will present papers which will be followed by discussions.

Prof. K. S. G. Doss, ex-director, CECRI, Karaikudi, will inaugurate the technical meeting and also preside over the technical session.

ACTING POLICEMAN (Madras, PTI): Mr. Pon Paramaguru, who recently retired as director-general of police in Tamil Nadu, has turned to film acting.

He was cast in the role of a judge in a Tamil movie, 'Pournami Alaigal' (waves on a full moon day), and the shooting took place for five days in one of the studios in the city.

Mr. Paramaguru, who was the city's police commissioner in the early 80's, has acted in a documentary, 'Ungal Nanban' (Your Friend) shot in 1959 by the police department, when he was an assistant commissioner of police.

West Bengal

COAL MINES (UNI): The Centre has agreed in principle to hand over some of the abandoned coal mines to the West Bengal government to make them viable, according to the state industries minister, Mr. Nirmal Bose.

Mr. Bose told newsmen in Calcutta on Monday that he held discussions with the Union energy minister, Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, in this regard at New Delhi recently.

Mr. Bose said the Union minister responded favourably to the step, which would help check illegal mining.

There are about 170 abandoned mines in the state. The states government proposes to work them through the state mineral development corporation.

CM DENIES CHARGE (PTI): The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, on Monday denied that there had been lack of effort on the part of the state government to give possession of lands to the railways for the construction of Tamluk-Digha broad gauge line in Midnapore district.

The chief minister referred to the allegation, reportedly made by the railway minister, Mr. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, that the West Bengal government was not forthcoming in handing over the lands to the railways in this matter.

In a letter to Mr. Khan Chowdhury, which was released to the press, the chief minister, said contrary to the allegation "the local authorities of the railways are not making earnest efforts in this regard."

S. N. SINGH DEAD (UNI): The CPI (ML) leader, Mr. S. N. Singh died of heart failure at K. G. Hospital, Vishakapatnam, on Sunday, according to a delayed report received at the party office in Calcutta.

Mr. Singh was the general secretary of CPI (ML) provisional central committee and was also connected with both CPI and CPM before joining the CPI (ML). He had gone to Andhra Pradesh to attend an important party meeting when he suffered the heart attack. He is survived by three sons and three daughters.

Assam

AMMUNITION RECOVERED (UNI): A huge quantity of explosives and ammunition was recovered from the bank of Saktola river in Darrang district last Thursday, according to an official report in Guwahati on Monday.

The recovery includes a high-power explosive, two mortar bombs, grenades and 144 rounds of ammunition which were kept in a trunk.

No arrests have so far been made. Another report from the district said a stengun and pipegun were recovered from a person in Sipahar area on October 14. The stengun is suspected to have been stolen from the reserve police in Shillong and used in a bus dacoity near Tangla last month. Three persons have been arrested in this connection.

Gujarat

JAUNDICE DEATHS (Rajkot, UNI): The killer jaundice has claimed 32 lives with the death of two patients in Rajkot on Monday.

According to official sources, 25 people had died in the Civil hospital while seven children had died in the Government children hospital during the past six months.

In all 756 cases were admitted in the two hospitals during the period. Twenty-nine people were still under treatment in the two hospitals, the sources added.

Madhya Pradesh

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE (Jabalpur, TOINS): Jabalpur will soon have an electronic telephone exchange and the capacity of the present telephone exchange would be increased from 8,000 to 10,000. The city would also be linked with Nagpur by coaxial cable to improve trunk telephone service, according to Mr. V. N. Gadgil, Union minister of state for communications.

Mr. Gadgil laid the foundation-stone of the new building for the central telegraph office in Jabalpur on Sunday. It will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crores. The Building is expected to be completed by June 1986.