



**J&K to seek enforcement of Ravi water agreement: Mufti**

**CM demands early clearance of Rs 80 crore Kandi water project**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

**Jammu, Dec. 21:** Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said that he would forcefully take up with the Centre and the Punjab Government for providing to Jammu and Kashmir full share of Ravi water as per the agreement with Panjab Government in the past.

Addressing a largely attended public meeting at Sallan near Hiranagar in Billawar constituency of Kathua district this afternoon, the Chief Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is not getting 1150 cusecs of water as agreed to by the Punjab Government while taking up Shahpur Kandi barrage. Depriving the State of its share of water from Ravi river amounts to injustice, he said that he would take up the matter at the highest level, both at the central and Panjab Government to get this injustice undone. He regretted that despite his meeting with the Punjab Chief Minister and his senior officers at Chandigarh on this issue of vital importance, no headway has been made in the matter.

The chief Minister said his Government would also take up with the Centre for early approval of ambitious Rs 80 crore kandi water supply project. He said kandi area between Jatwal and Lakhampur is facing acute problem of water supply both for drinking and irrigation purposes and due attention would be given to solve it. Meanwhile, the water supply scheme for Sallan would be improved.

The Chief Minister announced that a dispensary would be set up at an appropriate place near Sallan to benefit the people. He said building housing the newly upgraded higher secondary school at Sallan would be renovated and improved. The Dayallachak-Chhallan road would be improved as demanded by the local MLA.

Deputy Chief Minister Mangat Ram Sharma said that the Government would set up delimitation commission and finance commission in the State as promised in the common minimum programme. He said new administrative units would also be created after reviewing the recommendations of the Wazir Commission. He said that the Government is aware of the problems of the State and taking concrete measures to address these. He said the power and drinking water problems in kandi area would get due attention of the Government and a well-considered plan formulated.

He said that Farooq Government had signed MoU with the central Government undertaking not to create jobs in view of precarious financial condition of the State. He said the present Government is bound by this agreement but still we are creating jobs wherever possible. He, however, made it clear that the jobs would be filled as per norms and not sold as in the past.

Health Minister Ch. Lal Singh accused previous NC Government of doing nothing for the people of the State during its rule and only indulged in large-scale loot. He said jobs were literally auctioned. Due to their wrong policies the economy was shattered and only false promises hurdled with no actual work on the ground.

Vice Chairman J&K Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Corporation Girdhari Lal who also spoke on the occasion, highlighted the demands of Hiranagar constituency.

Dr. Manohar Lal, local MLA gave detailed account of the problems of the kandi area and sought Chief Minister's personal intervention to address the acute problem of drinking water and irrigation. He regretted that Dinga Amb and Sallan area is devoid of dispensary and made a strong plea for setting up of a dispensary and accident hospital. Similarly, he demanded setting up of a veterinary centre in the area. Among other demands, he sought Chief Minister's special attention on construction of a bridge over Ujh river at Juthane and link road leading to the proposed site of the bridge, improvement of Dayalachak-Chhallan road, electrification of five villages and upgradation of some schools. He demanded that Dinga Amb area be declared a backward pocket.

Babu Singh, MLA Kathua who also spoke on the occasion stressed the need for reviving Ravi canal project which is suffering for want of non-fulfillment of the agreement by Punjab Government. He hailed the coalition Government for its several bold initiatives and said that credit goes to Mufti Sayeed and his Government for initiating peace moves which have not only been acclaimed within the country but outside as well.

The Chief Minister distributed letters of appointment to the newly selected teachers of the area.