

Haphazard replacement of electric poles poses risk to commuters

'PDD has endangered our lives'
MUDASIR YAQOOB

Srinagar, Jan 6: Haphazard replacement of electric poles in various areas of the summer capital poses risk of accidents.

PDD has dug up various roads in Srinagar for installing new poles. Ironically, the department has failed to properly fill up the dug up portions posing risk of accidents. The areas where the new poles have been installed include Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar, Boulevard,

Dalgate, Qamarwari, Bemina and its adjacent areas.

"PDD is executing the project haphazardly. First new poles are kept on the main road which cause traffic jams. Later they dig roads but don't install poles for several weeks. This poses risk of accidents," said Asrar Ahmad, a local of Jawahar Nagar.

Commuters said that most of the dug up portions are refilled haphazardly. "The smart strategy was to ensure refilling of these pits in a scientific manner. The macadamized roads are dug up and left dilapidated. How can authorities act as mute spectator to this issue?," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a commuter.



At Qamarwari and Dalgate, the commuters had similar complaints. "Many accidents have occurred due to dug up pits on roads for installing electric poles," said Shabir Ahmad, a commuter at Qamarwari.

At few places, locals said way to streets was blocked by huge mounds of earth put by PDD contractor. Mehrajuddin, one of the commuters at Boulevard said that "I suffered injuries on my legs after my motorcycle fell into a pit during night hours last week."

"Sometimes, four-wheelers plying on these roads get stuck in these pits. Even car tyres skids on the pits which have been haphazardly

refilled," said Shahid Ahmad a commuter.

Chief engineer PDD Shahnaz Goni said that "concerned contractors have been repeatedly directed to refill the dug up portions in scientific manner."

"We have directed them to remove all extracted material from the spots. We will look into the matter," she added.

Roads and buildings chief engineer, Sheikh Hamid said that he has taken up the matter with PDD higher ups. "I am aware about the problem. We have repeatedly requested PDD authorities to direct concerned contractor to refill the dug up portion as per norms," he said.

Div Com for expediting rehabilitation of Dal dwellers

Chairs LAWDA's 108th HLC meeting

Srinagar, Jan 6: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan today chaired the 108th high-level committee (HLC) meeting of LAWDA regarding capping of plots and cash compensation to the Dal dwellers.

The meeting was informed that plots and cash compensation will be provided to the Dal dwellers against the structures at Abi Nowpora, Abi Karpora, Nandpora and Karpora-Batpora which are to be removed under the Dal Development and Lakes & Waterways Development programmes by the LAWDA.

It was further informed that 3100 plots were developed in Rakh-i-Arth Bemina in which 2200 plots of 7 marlas each were already allotted to Dal Dwellers. A total 750 pacca and kacha structures were constructed by dwellers on the Rakh-i-Arth Bemina which are replete with sewerage, drainage, electricity, water supply and black-topping of roads.

It was said that the plots have been capped as per the requirements and convenience of the people which were shifted from the Dal areas. The plots and cash compensation were given to the families as per the field verification, submission of Aadhaar cards and other requisite formalities.

During the meeting, various cases regarding allotment of plots and cash compensation to Dal dwellers for their rehabilitation at Rakh-i-Arth were approved.

Div Com directed LAWDA to demolish those structures in the Dal vicinity immediately whose owners have already received compensation. He stressed upon the concerned authorities to speed up the rehabilitation process and clear the pending cases immediately so that the pristine glory of Dal Lake is revived.

Deputy commissioner Srinagar, VC LAWDA, secretary LAWDA, collector LAWDA, VC SDA, executive engineer UEED, joint commissioner SMC, executive engineer LAWDA, deputy director Planning and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

SMC flags off 50 hoppers

'This will boost waste segregation at source'
MUDASIR YAQOOB

Srinagar, Jan 6: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Saturday flagged off 50 hoppers to boost segregation of waste at source.

The hoppers were flagged off by MLA Batmaloo while senior SMC officials were also present on the occasion.

SMC officials will operate the machines under the supervision of solid waste management expert Ram Prakash. "The hoppers would enable us to make door to door collection and segregate waste at source. Officials will aware people about importance of segregation at source," said SMC commissioner Riyaz Ahmad Wani.

To mention, SMC had come under severe criticism for non-implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules (SWMR) as it had limited the segregation of waste

project to issuing advertisements only.

SMC chief sanitation officer informed that under this project, every household and waste generator should start segregating their waste into two bins—green for organic waste and blue for inorganic waste.

"The SMC teams will make door to door collection and lift the segregated waste in scientific way. The entire process will be done and executed under the supervision of expert" he added.

He added that later the segregated waste will be composted scientifically.

SMC Commissioner, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, said preparations have been put in place to comply the SWMR in letter and spirit. "Segregation of waste at source is one of the important steps to recycle dry waste easily and to use wet waste as compost. 50 additional hooper vehicles have been pressed into service to SMC for garbage lifting. We want to ensure zero percent presence of garbage and for it we seek public cooperation," he added.

Naeem Akhtar reviews construction of Jehangir Chowk-Rambagh flyover

Inspects Mahjoor Nagar bridge, TRC grade separator

Srinagar, Jan 6: Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar today visited under construction Jehangir Chowk-Barzulla flyover, Mahjoornagar bridge and grade separator at TRC to review pace of work of the projects.

The minister was informed that work on these projects is in full swing and will be completed in a time-bound manner. He was informed that currently traffic light poles are being installed over the completed portion at



Jehangir Chowk-Rambagh flyover and workers are working round-the-clock to complete the project that will greatly ease the traffic problems in the city.

Lauding the efforts of the concerned departments involved in these projects, the minister expressed his satisfaction regarding the pace of

works and toured the entire one-kilometre stretch of completed flyover section.

He directed the officials to undertake beautification of the buildings adjacent to the flyover so that the travel on this flyover will be a pleasant experience. He also stressed for taking durable as well as scientific

methods into the consideration during construction works of these projects.

The minister directed the concerned for taking care of the macadamization process of the roads underneath the flyover and proper traffic moment diversion simultaneously to ease the traffic flow.

Earlier, Naeem Akhtar also visited Mahjoor Nagar bridge and grade separator at TRC to take stock of the ongoing works there. The minister was informed that work on these projects is also in full swing and together with Jehangir Chowk-Barzulla flyover, they will resolve a majority of traffic woes in Srinagar.

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(Amandeep Singh)
Chief Regional Manager

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