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Withdraw notices to staff, Malhotra tells Jagmohan

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 4

SENIOR BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra has urged Union Urban Development Minister Jagmohan to withdraw notices issued to central government employees against the structures they have added to their living units.

Speaking for the major chunk of central government employees residing in the Capital, Mr Malhotra said that owing to the small size of government quarters several of them had added a small shed or structure for greater convenience. It would cause them much inconvenience if these structures were removed or pulled down.

In his letter to Mr Jagmohan, Mr Malhotra has stated that these employees live in various sectors of R K Puram, Sarojini Nagar, Moti Bagh I and II. "You were made aware of the matter when a deputation of central government employees of Sarojini Nagar and

Illegal Structures



Vijay Kumar Malhotra

Luxmi Bai Nagar met you on June 17 last year. You were kind enough to pass orders to Secretary Urban Development desiring suspension of action at that time," he stated to Mr Jagmohan.

More over Mr Malhotra has

referred to provisions in a Home Ministry circular of 1996 which provides for certain additions and alterations in government accommodations.

The BJP leader has also urged Mr Jagmohan to take a humane view on the problem of the government employees. "You may appreciate that most of the employees have become eligible for Type III and Type IV accommodation. All the members of the family cannot be accommodated in their present residences. Due to growth in the family after the marriage of their children and old parents they have constructed temporary structures in these quarters which they will vacate when their turn comes for higher type of accommodation or after retirement from service," he told Mr Jagmohan.

Mr Malhotra has asked the Minister to take a compassionate view of the matter and direct the concerned authorities to suspend action against those living in government accommodation.

Stop blaming me, displeased Jagmohan tells Chief Minister

Hemendra Singh Bartwal
New Delhi, December 4

REACTING SHARPLY to the Delhi Government's move to blame the Centre for the current imbroglio on the issue of relocation of industries, Urban Development Minister Jagmohan has written a terse missive to Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit expressing his displeasure at her attempts to pass on the buck to his Ministry.

"I am afraid I am unable to agree with your perception that the Union Government has adopted an adversarial posture," Mr Jagmohan stated in his letter while regretting that he too was being targetted by her ministers and parliament.

"Regrettably, quite a few persons have gone on television, accusing me of being inflexible. I do not wish to get into any controversy with regard to such accusations and insinuations," he wrote in the letter sent to Mrs Dikshit on Friday.

Referring to the State Government's stand before the Supreme Court that it was unable to develop about 1300 acres of land in Bhawana for relocation of industries from residential areas because DDA delayed changing the land use in Master Plan, the Minister charged the Chief Minister and her officials with failure to pursue the matter.

"Neither you nor your Minister



Jagmohan

nor any other authority of your Government ever brought to my notice the alleged delays on the part of the DDA. Moreover, as you know, it is the Lt Governor who is the ex-officio Chairman of the DDA... The Lt Governor plays the coordinating role between the DDA and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and other local agencies," he said.

It was pointed out that so far as the Urban Development Ministry was concerned, it largely dealt with the policy and parliamentary work and was not involved with the routine working of the DDA.

Besides, he observed that so far

as the land use of Bawana was concerned, it had already been settled by the orders of the Supreme Court which had asked the Delhi Government in 1996 to develop the area for relocation of the industrial units shifted out of residential areas.

The Minister also questioned the credibility of the survey conducted by Delhi Government's Industries Department, which claimed that in 16 colonies as many as 70 per cent of the houses were being used for running industrial units. On the basis of these findings, the Government has demanded that the Master Plan be amended to declare these residential colonies as industrial areas.

In his letter, Mr Jagmohan deplored that Delhi Government's campaign to secure major changes in the Capital's Master Plan was based on a "perceptual survey" of two or three officers in the Industries Department. The survey was "neither scientific nor precise nor reliable", he alleged.

The issues raised by Mr Jagmohan in his letter to Mrs Dikshit were also contained in an affidavit filed by the Urban Development Ministry before the Supreme Court today.

It was pointed out that the results of the survey did not match the documentary evidence of electoral rolls, ration cards or the house tax, electricity and water bills of the concerned areas.

ENGAGEMENTS

■ Ramjas College: Profs. Romila Thapar and Tanika Sarkar to speak on "Communalism and the Writing of History" at Ramjas College Auditorium at 11 am.

■ Air Force School, Subroto Park: "Second Inter School Athletic Meet" at Air Force Sports Ground, Subroto Park, Delhi Cantt. from 10 am onwards.

■ Indian Council for South Asian Cooperation: Fourth Dinesh Singh Memorial Lecture on "Gender and Equity: The South Asian Syndrome" at India International Centre at 6.30 pm.

■ Delhi Management Association: Discussion Meeting on "Successful Brand Building" at DMA Conference Hall, India Habitat Centre at 5.45 pm.

■ Habitat World, I.H.C.: An illustrated talk on "Splendour of Steam" at 7 pm.

■ Foundation for Universal Responsibility: Talk on "The Vedic Chant - the Art of Listening", at Lecture Room, IIC Annexe at 6.30 pm.

■ Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Academy: "16th National Conference of Dalit Writers" at Talkatora Indoor Stadium at 10 am.

■ Akhil Bhartiya Jivan Bima Nigam Chaturthi Sreni Karmachari Sangh: "10th By-Annual Conference" of Akhil Bhartiya Jivan Bima Nigam Chaturthi Sreni Karmachari Sangh at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Rani Jhansi Road.

■ Ayyappa Temple: "Mandala Puja Celebrations" at Sector-2, R.K. Puram at 6.30 pm.

■ Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan: 128th Birthday celebration of "Bhai Vir Singh" at Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan (near Gole Market) at 8.30 am.

■ Sher-e-Kashmir Peace Foundation: Celebration of "95th Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah" at 22, Sardar Patel Marg at 3 pm

■ Gandhii Smriti & Darshan Samiti: "Gandhi Rath", prayer, meeting and discussion at Lion's Vidy Mandir, Kashmir House, Kushak Lane at 11.30 am.

■ Helpage India: "Free Medicare van" for the aged visits Trilok Puri and Kalyan Puri from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm, Shakurpur from 2.30 pm to 4 pm and Madipur from 4 pm to 6.30 pm.

■ Venu Eye Institute: "Free Mobile Eye Care" Clinic at Arya Samaj Mandir, Sewa Nagar from 9.00 am to 12.00 Noon.

■ Lok Kalyan Samiti: "Free Eye check-up camp" at Sucheta Bhawan, 11-A, Vishnu Digamber Marg from 9 am onwards.

'Stop encroachment'

THE RESIDENTS of LIC Colony, Jeevan Niketan, in Paschim Vihar, are up in arms against residents of GH-9 whom they accuse of encroaching on public land by undertaking construction on the utility road.

The residents said that though they lodged complaint with the police in this regard, construction was allowed to commence on Sunday night.

HTC, New Delhi

Khurana demands Dikshit resignation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

affidavit, he said.

NEW DELHI, Dec. 4. — The Bharatiya Janata Party vice-president, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, today demanded the resignation of Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Sheila Dikshit for the failure of Delhi Government to protect non-polluting industries in non-conforming areas from closure.

Addressing a Press conference here, Mr Khurana, who is an MP from Delhi Sadar, said the Delhi Government should come out with a White Paper on this issue to clarify its position.

He also demanded an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation to identify officers responsible for the closure of non-polluting industries when the Supreme Court had ordered closure of only polluting industries in a recent order.

"The officers of Delhi Government sealed cycle puncture shops and outlets of even drycleaners," said Mr Khurana. He alleged that the Delhi Government is indulging in double speak.

The affidavit filed by the government recently in the Supreme Court will lead to closure about one lakh industries in the Capital, he added. The stand taken by the chief minister publicly on this issue is not reflected in this affi-

The former Delhi chief minister said, according to the affidavit, the Delhi Government will relocate only those industries whose applications for relocation have been found eligible.

This will lead to closure of about 90,000 industrial units in the Capital, said Mr Khurana.

He said, he is ready to lead an agitation against the Delhi Government in order to protest against its policies. He blamed the Delhi Government for not implementing the Rs 300 crore project to set up 16 sewage treatment plants for cleaning the river Jamuna in the Capital.

The problem of pollution can not be solved with closure of only industrial units, there is a need to clean river Jamuna and effectively check the vehicular pollution too, said Mr Khurana.

The Delhi Government has failed to control the pollution on both these fronts, he added. He said the pollution from the industrial units should not be viewed in isolation and a multi-pronged strategy should be adopted to control the air and water pollution in the Capital.

Mr Khurana said, "The Prime Minister has assured me of a viable solution to this problem and I trust him."