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Chief Secretary reviews \$250 mn JTFR project with World Bank team



Srinagar, Oct 25: Chief secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam on Thursday reviewed the implementation of the World Bank funded \$250 million Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) at a wrap-up meeting with the visiting WB mid-term review mission.

The WB mission which was led by task team leader Deepak Singh had arrived here on October 22. During its visit, the mission visited various under construction projects in Srinagar and also held discussion with various JTFRP units, an official handout said.

The meeting today among others was attended by financial commissioner, H&UDD, principal secretary, I&C department, principal secretary, PD&MD, ADGP, Home Guards/SDRF, commissioner secretary, PW(R&B), secretary, DMRR&R, CEO JTFRP.

Team leader Deepak Singh

while sharing his views observed that overall progress in the implementation of JTFRP has been slow. However, he added that the recent decision of the state government to integrate JTFRP with J&K ERA "is likely to ensure a seamless and quick execution process".

"He said work/consultancy contracts of \$100 million (40%) need to be awarded and disbursement of \$10 million (4%) achieved by mid-December," the statement read.

Presently, work contracts of \$23 million and consultancies of \$12 million have been awarded besides disbursement of \$5 million has been achieved.

He also shared his views on strengthening SDMA and creating a permanent set up/structure that will focus on pre-empting and preventing potential disasters.

Describing JTFRP as a high priority project for Jammu & Kashmir, which is being monitored at the level of the Prime Minister, the chief secretary observed that having identified the constraints and institutional bottlenecks hampering the accelerated pace of execution, a decision was taken to integrate JTFRP with J&K ERA "which had acquired the requisite expertise in the procedures and guidelines followed in the case of externally funded projects."

The chief secretary assured the WB team that JTFRP will be given impetus to achieve the desired outcomes. "We will see good progress in coming months especially by May, 2019", he said and added that over 40% of the tenders will be awarded by December, 2018 also. GKNN