

## World Bank-funded JTFRP Common facility centre for manufacturing cricket bats to be developed at Sethar, Anantnag



**ANANTNAG:** Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ERA/JTFRP, Raghav Langer has stated that Sethar, Anantnag, known globally for manufacturing quality cricket bats, is to be developed as a common facility centre for the manufacturing of cricket bats under the World Bank-funded JTFRP (Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project).

This was stated during a site visit to the existing common facility centre at Sethar, Anantnag for season-

ing of cricket bats. The facility has been badly affected due the floods of 2014 and is presently not operational.

Officers of the industries and commerce department present on the occasion informed the CEO that more than 400 bat manufacturing units are presently operating in Sethar and adjoining areas of District Anantnag which employ more than 5,000 people and the facility was established in 2006 for the seasoning of wood used by these

units for the manufacturing of cricket bats, an official release read.

The CEO also visited a local bat manufacturing unit where he observed the various stages involved in the manufacturing of the cricket bats. He also interacted with the representatives of the local bat manufacturing units who demanded that the area be designated as an industrial cluster and be provided with all the facilities to enable the cricket bat manufacturing units to

flourish, it read.

He also directed the nodal officer of JTFRP to prepare a report regarding the key actions plan agreed to between the representatives of bat manufacturing units and World Bank representatives during their meeting at New Delhi so that a comprehensive project for the establishment of common facility centre for the cricket bat units at Sethar is taken up.

Representatives of bat industry also demanded that the SRO of government regulating their activity needs to be revisited and amended as per the latest requirements.

CEO JTFRP also inspected the progress of work on 3.34 km Halmulla-Punchpora to Kralkut road which is estimated to cost Rs 4.98 crores and also visited Girls Degree College, Anantnag and Boys Degree College Bijbehara where additional blocks are being constructed under the critical infrastructure component of JTFRP, the release added.