

## **Shrine Board clarifies issues related to tent/shop permission**

**JAMMU, February 9** - Regarding reports in media regarding some people agitating against the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board having imposed certain unreasonable conditions for granting tents and shop permission for Yatra 2013, Shri P.P. Singh, Additional CEO, Shrine Board, clarified today that all issues regarding grant of permission for tents and shops had already been resolved in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners Anantnag and Ganderbal. In this regard, he referred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted SHPC Report wherein it is stated that the quality of tents made available to Yatris in many cases were not upto the mark and, in future, a Committee headed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner should grant permission for pitching tents only after verifying the quality of tents. This recommendation, accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, requires to be implemented. Accordingly, Shri Farooq Ahmad Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, who has considerable experience of working in Tourism sector was requested to identify reasonably priced tents of suitable quality which should be the benchmark for assessing quality before issuing permission for pitching tents. Accordingly, a benchmark tent was identified by Mr. Shah, which costs around Rs. 18000/- per unit only and not Rs. 35,000/- as mentioned in the news report.

The Additional CEO further clarified that for Yatra 2013, a Committee headed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner and not the Shrine Board shall grant permission for shops and tents. Further, the guidelines in this regard were framed in close consultation with Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag districts and no condition has been prescribed that every person desirous of seeking permission to install tents has to buy a new tent. If a person is already having a reasonable quality of tent which matches the quality prescribed this year, the Inspection Committee will clear

such a tent while issuing permission. Only those persons having poor quality/torn tents would need to buy tents of the specified quality.

The Additional CEO mentioned that representatives and delegations of tent owners association have repeatedly met CEO and most of their issues regarding production of documents, date for filing applications etc. have already been resolved. In case, they still have any other grievance, they could contact the concerned Deputy Commissioner, who is the final authority for granting such permissions, for the redressal of their grievances.

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