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STONE-PELTING VICTIM CREMATED IN SUNDERBANI AMID PROTES

Tazeem Malik/Zorawar Singh. Dated: 8/1/2013 12:19:01 AM

Bandh, protests in Rajouri, Poonch

RAJOURI/SUNDERBANI, Jul 31: The victim of stone-pelting during violent protests at Awantipora in Kashmir ag Gool firing incident, Ravi Kant Sharma, who succumbed to his injuries last night at SKIMS, was cremated at his place Sunderbani amid bandh and protest demonstrations across the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonc At Sunderbani, the agitated protesters including the relatives, who had blocked Jammu-Poonch highway last ni after the news of his death in SKIMS reached them, continued the blockade till 11.00 AM this morning.

The deceased's body reached Sunderbani at the dead of night. The protesters placed his body, kept in a tempo the Highway and continued the blockade.

They were urging the government to grant Rs 10 lakh compensation, job to his kin and home for the poor family The blockade was lifted only after the state government rushed Minister for Planning Ajay Sadhotra and Ministe State for Health Shabir Khan along with IGP Jammu Rajesh Kumar to Sunderbani and handed over the cheque lakhs and also announced to give a government job for the deceased's son.

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter, heavy deployment of the police and para-military troops was made the district particularly at Highway in Sunderbani which witnessed blockade amid protest demonstrations.

Various Hindu organisations, Beopar Mandals, social and religious organisations today observed a complete ba Rajouri district amid massive protest demonstrations against the death of this Amarnath pilgrim from Sunderbar stone pelting in Awantipura.

Ravi Kant Sharma, a poor Rehri vendor and father of three children had gone to pay obeisance at Amarnath cav shrine in Kashmir. On way back to Rajouri, a stone hit him on the head when he was caught between security fo and protestors near Awantipura.

The protest at Awantipora was organized by the local people against alleged desecration of Quran followed by v clashes in Gool in which four persons were killed by the security forces.

Police had shifted the injured Ravikant to a hospital at Shopian from where he was referred to Sher-e-Kashmir In of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and since then he was on ventilator struggling for life.

On Tuesday Ravi succumbed to his injuries and as the news of death reached Rajouri and Sunderbani, the peop closed their shops and blocked Jammu–Poonch highway at Sunderbani.

Leaders of various Hindu organizations, members of Beopar Mandal and social and religious organizations held

massive protest demonstration at Sunderbani, Rajouri and other parts of the district.

They were urging the government to grant Rs 10 lakh compensation, job to his kin and home for the poor family deceased belonged to BPL category and was living in a rented mud house in Sunderbani town.

On Tuesday the Chief Minister had announced Rs 2 lakhs for the poor family. However, following protests in the yesterday, the state cabinet, presided over by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Srinagar, on Wednesday, sanctioned Rs 5 lakhs extraordinary ex-gratia for the family of Ravikant.

A complete bandh was observed today in the entire district and keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter, the government rushed Minister for Planning Ajay Sadhotra and Minister of State for Health Shabir Khan along with Jammu Rajesh Kumar to Sunderbani and handed over the cheque of Rs 5 lakhs. They also announced a goverr job for the deceased's son.

DDC Rajouri FC Bhagat said it was also decided by the district administration after consultations to provide a pl 10 marals to the family and also construct rooms under Indira Awas Yojna.

Meanwhile Pushpinder Gupta, senior Congress leader and member state executive expressed satisfaction over government decision and thanked MP Madan Lal Sharma, MoS Health Shabit Khan, PHE Minister Sham Lal Sh for taking personal interest in ensuring suitable compensation for the kin of deceased Ravi Kant.

Meanwhile senior BJP leaders Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Yogesh Gupta, VHP leaders Sat Pal Sharma, Yudhvir Gupta, Chand and Karan Thakur, Bajrang Dal leaders, have demanded action against those involved in the killing of Ra They were also present during the cremation at Sunderbani.

The border district Poonch also observed total bandh in protest against the death of Ravikant in stone-pelting.

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