

PM inaugurates Jagti township

SUCCOUR Project envisages 4,218 flats, hospital, schools, community halls

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JAMMU: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday inaugurated the township for migrant Kashmir Pandits at Jagti, about 20 km north of the Jammu city. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of the township in July 2007.

The township has been constructed under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan (PMRP). It envisages construction of 4,218 two-room flats for KP migrants, besides facilities for a 40-bedded hospital, one higher secondary school, one middle school and two community halls.

The flats are likely to be completed by the end of March 2011.

"A conducive atmosphere would be created in the Valley for the safe return of the KPs," said the PM. He said the project would be completed soon. The PM handed over keys of flats to 12 families on the occasion.

About 55,000 families had migrated from the Valley in 1990 after some KPs were shot dead by terrorists in selective killings and threatening calls by terrorists.

In official records, 3,50,000 KPs are registered with the relief commissioner. Unofficially the figure is five lakh as some of the families didn't get themselves registered.

The Prime Minister, who had the laid foundation stone of the township, by visiting again, had tried to send the message that he was sensitive to the feelings of the minority communities.

Days before the PM's visit, the state government had announced group health insurance cover to 17,000 KP families whose members are not in government jobs.

CM Omar Abdullah, while speaking on the occasion, said, KPs had migrated because their



■ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh handing over keys of a flat to one of the beneficiaries at Jagti in Jammu on Friday.

NITIN KANOTRA/HT

was a sense of insecurity and now efforts are being made so that they have a sense of security on returning.

BJP spokesperson Tarun Vijay, while appreciating the gesture of PM, said, "Still the flats being distributed by the PM are not on an equitable basis. The scheme doesn't take

into account the plight of PoK refugees and also those who were turned refugees after the wars of 1965 and 1971. Even the flats being distributed are barely livable ones."

Under the PMRP construction of 5,242 two-room tenements had started at a revised cost of Rs 385 crore.

In the first phase, 1,024 flats have already been constructed at Purkhoo, Muthi and Nagrota which stand allotted to the beneficiaries.

The work on the remaining 4,218 two-room tenements complex at Jagti was launched under the second phase of the project.