

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Housing & Urban Development Department
Civil Secretariat
Jammu/Srinagar

Notification

Jammu, the 12th September, 2022

S.O 438.- **Whereas**, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir vide letter No. DULB/G/17086-87 Dated.17.05.2022 has submitted that as per the report of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Awantipora and statement posted on the official website of Anti Corruption Bureau, Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora has been caught red handed by Anti Corruption Bureau during the trap on 13.05.2022 while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 1000/- for processing bills of the vendor; and

Whereas, an FIR No.09/2022 has been registered against Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora by the Anti Corruption Bureau and was arrested on spot; and

Whereas, vide Government order No.69-JK(HUD) of 2022 Dated.24.05.2022, an enquiry was ordered by the department under Section 26 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, wherein Mrs. Mathoora Masoom, JKAS, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir was appointed as Inquiry officer to conduct a detailed enquiry into the matter of alleged misconduct of President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora for abusing official position; and

Whereas, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora was afforded an opportunity to present his case/defense by the Inquiry Officer. The President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora (Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat) appeared before the Inquiry Officer and submitted a written statement of defense which was taken on record; and

Whereas, the Inquiry Officer vide letter No.DULB/Enq-Dir/1571/2022/26743 dated 27.07.2022 has submitted the inquiry report. The Inquiry Officer in the report has observed that the President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora (Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat) in his reply has denied all the allegations and tried to shift the blame to the Executive Officer stating therein that Executive Officer actually passes and signs the bills and does not take the President into confidence while passing the bills. But the same is contrary to the law position and in the instant case, the Executive Officer had sought the approval of the President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora, which he had refused to accord. As per Section 306(2) of Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, it is duty of Executive Officer to assist the President of the Municipal Committee and thus the contention of the President that Executive Officer does not take President into confidence is baseless; and

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[Signature]

Whereas, the Inquiry Officer after considering the reply of the President, Statement of witnesses has recommended that the President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora (Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat) has abused his official powers as the President of the Committee and acted in a manner which is unbecoming of a public servant and therefore is liable for removal under Section 26 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 26 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, the Government hereby removes Mr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, President, Municipal Committee, Awantipora from his office on the ground of abuse of his official powers, with immediate effect.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor.

Sd/-
(Dheeraj Gupta)IAS
Principal Secretary to the Government
Housing & Urban Development Department

No:HUD-LSG0ULBK/27/2022(190824)
Copy to the:-

Dated.- 12 -09-2022

1. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
2. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
3. Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.
4. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.
5. Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.
6. Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
7. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar.
8. Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.
9. Special Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K.
10. General Manager, Government Press, Jammu/Srinagar, for publication, in the Government Gazettee.
11. Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department.
12. Concerned.
13. Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Awantipora
14. I/c website, Housing & Urban Dev. Department.
15. Master file/stock file.

(Thannaji Bhat)
Under Secretary to the Government

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12-09-22