

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Mining Department**  
**Civil Secretariat, J&K**

**Subject:** Initiation of Regular Departmental Action against Sh. Brijesh Kumar Manhas, the then District Mineral Officer, Doda, Geology and Mining, Jammu.

**Ref(s):**

- i) O.M No. GAD-VIGORDA/32/2022-02-GAD dated 31.08.2022, from General Administration Department.
- ii) JDJ/Corres/Doda/II/2020-21/105-106 dated 12.04.2023 received from Joint Director, Geology and Mining Department, Jammu (Inquiry Officer).

**Government Order No: 24-JK(MNG) of 2023**

**Dated: 02.06.2023**

**Whereas**, the General Administration Department, vide Office Memorandum (O.M) No. GAD-VIGORDA/32/2022-02-GAD dated 31.08.2022, forwarded communication No. ACB-JSC-DKR-12/2029-2247-49 dated 04.02.2022 from the Anti Corruption Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir for initiating Regular Departmental Action against Sh. Brijesh Kumar Manhas, the then District Mineral Officer, Doda based on allegations of lack of supervision, non-maintenance of records, procedural deficiencies and other related snortcomings in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1956;

**Whereas**, vide Memorandum No. GM-MNG/347/2022-04 dated 30.09.2022, the Article of Charges, Statement of Imputation and Gist of evidences were duly served to the Charged Officer, namely Sh. Brijesh Kumar Manhas, the then District Mineral Officer, Doda;

**Whereas**, the Charged Officer submitted his reply/ written statement within the stipulated time limit. After thorough examination of the reply/ written statement, the Competent Authority decided to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations raised against the Charged Officer;

**Whereas**, the Department vide Government Order No. 41- JK (MNG) of 2022 dated 11.11.2022, appointed Sh. H.L Langeh, Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu, as designated Inquiry Officer in accordance with Sub-section 4 of Rule 33 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, with the responsibility to conduct a thorough inquiry into the charges raised against Sh. Brijesh Kumar Manhas, the then District Mineral Officer, Doda, who was involved in JSC/DKR-12/2019;

**Whereas**, the designated Inquiry Officer, vide his communication No. JDJ/Misc/Doda/2022-23/514-515 dated 23.05.2023, submitted the Inquiry Report along with recommendations, which reads as under:

*"After analysis of the Draft Articles of Charges and statements/ reply submitted by the officer in question and the written statements of the present DMO, it is concluded that as per available manpower, infrastructure in the District and rugged topography of the area, the officer had tried to implement the MM (D&R) Act 1957 and rules made there under. Since, only one small Sand Mining lease was*

*operational in the District Doda for providing Minor Mineral i.e. Sand only which was not sufficient to cater the general requirement of Minor Minerals particularly crushing stones, nallah boulders etc. So, in order, to overcome the scarcity of key construction material (River Bed Material) for various developmental works the permission was granted as mandated vide Administrative Department Letter No. IND/Legal/27/2013-II dated: 15.04.2019 although, some lapses might have occurred due to vast, rugged and hazardous topography of the area and insufficient skilled manpower, lack of proper infrastructure and engagement in the geological assignments while administering the District by the officer in supervisory capacity.*

*Keeping in consideration the above stated facts, it is as such recommended that:*

- 1. Dr. Brijesh Manhas, the then DMO, Doda/ presently, DMO, Kishtwar may be shifted to Directorate office exclusively for deployment of geological investigations with issuance of warning for the some of the lapses occurred while administering the District in supervisory capacity.*
- 2. For smooth functioning of the District, skilled/ unskilled manpower, infrastructures be provided besides identification of more minerals blocks for ensuring availability of Raw material for National/ UT and General Public."*

**Whereas,** the Inquiry Report submitted by the designated Inquiry Officer was examined in the department and was placed before the Competent Authority for its consideration/ acceptance. The Competent Authority upheld and accepted the report and recommendations put forth by the Inquiry Officer; **and**

**Now, therefore,** in light of the Competent Authority's acceptance of the report and recommendations put forth by the Inquiry Officer, the Regular Departmental Action initiated by the Department in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 is hereby closed. Consequently, Sh. Brijesh Kumar Manhas, the then District Mineral Officer, Doda, is exonerated of all charges raised against him at the Departmental level with the directions to remain more careful and cautious in future while carrying out official responsibilities / duties.

**By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir**

Sd/-

(Amit Sharma) IAS

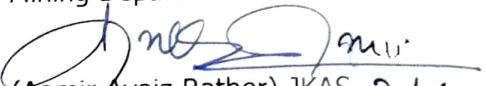
**Secretary to the Government**

Dated: 02.06.2023

No: GM-MNG/347/2022-04

Copy to the:-

1. Joint Secretary (JKL), Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
2. Director Archives, Archeology and Museums, J&K.
3. Director, Geology and Mining, J&K.
4. Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu (Inquiry Officer).
5. Concerned Officer.
6. Private Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.
7. Private Secretary to Secretary to the Government, Mining Department.
8. Government Order file (w.3.s.c).

  
(Aamir Ayaiz Rather) JKAS

**Under Secretary to the Government**

2/6