

PRESS RELEASE

Tarpin Panchyats arrested in Vigilance case

Five panchayats of 08-Tarpin GPU, Rhenock -- Panchyat President Devika Gurung, Panchyat Secretary Navraj Chettri, Member Soma Pradhan, Member Ashuda Mangar and Member Niruja Sharma have been arrested by Vigilance Police on 6th September for alleged misappropriation of government funds sanctioned for maintenance of Salghari Road for public use.

All the five accused persons have been booked on charge of criminal conspiracy, misappropriation, forgery for purpose of cheating and criminal misconduct. All of them have been remanded to police custody till 12th September by the judicial magistrate, Gangtok.

In 2014-15, Tarpin GPU was given a sum of Rs. 3,00,000/- for repairing and maintenance of Salghari Road in Rhenock. It is alleged that a sum of Rs 1,06,000/-, out of Rs. 3,00,000/-, has been dishonestly misappropriated, in 2015, by the arrested five panchayats in conspiracy with each other by creating false and forged Muster Roll Bill showing false payment having been made to 12 labourers in the matter of maintenance of PMGSY Road from Salghari Road.

Names of 12 local persons are mentioned in the Muster Roll Bill and all of them, when enquired by the Vigilance Department, categorically denied to have signed or put LTI on the Muster Roll. Payment ranging from Rs 8,100/- to Rs 10,000/- for working 18 days to 20 days has been shown in the Muster Roll. They have denied to have received any payment as shown against their name in the Muster Roll Bill.

Some teachers of a local school took initiative and on their own filled up some of the pot holes on the road.

Deployment of JCB and drawal of fuel was falsely shown for repairing of the road which was not done at all.

The Vigilance police is also looking into several other allegations of misuse of funds sanctioned under various developmental schemes of some other GPUs in the State of Sikkim where complaints from members of public have been received.

Vigilance department appeals to members of Panchayats in general interest to ensure that funds granted by the Sikkim Government for socio-economic upliftment of rural people are properly utilised for the purpose for which they are granted.

Supervisory officers of RMDD department are advised to doubly check as to whether fake names on bills are being submitted in schemes or work related cases. The department must also initiate strong action against any corrupt official whenever allegations made by members of public have been substantiated.

“Vigilance Police will take stern action against such panchayat members and government officials who loot government funds for private gain”

(Akshay Sachdeva, IPS)
Director Vigilance