

In the red, Sukhu govt does flip-flop on staff pay cut as it faces blowback

SAURABH PARASHAR
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10

HIMACHAL PRADESH Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's decision to "put in abeyance" the September 6 notification withdrawing increased salaries for state government employees has raised political heat and put a spotlight on the hill state's finances.

The Sukhu-led Congress government's U-turn came amid strong opposition from the employee unions and the principal Opposition BJP. Slamming the Sukhu government, the BJP said that the notification made Himachal Pradesh the first state in the country where the government reduced its employee salaries. Reversing the notification Monday, Sukhu said "the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of its employees and issuing such a notification was not justified".

The notification, aimed at saving about Rs 100 crore for the public exchequer, marked another government bid to tackle the state's mounting financial crisis. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s report for the financial year 2023-24, which was tabled during the Monsoon Session of the state Assembly last month, showed the total debt and

liabilities of Himachal Pradesh were Rs 95,633 crore. This exceeds targets set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, which states that Himachal cannot have a loan limit more than Rs 90,000 crore. Himachal's Debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio has risen from 39.09% in 2019-20 to 43.98% in 2023-24.

The state's borrowing is on the rise too. While its annual borrowing limit for 2023-24 was Rs 6,342 crore, the state ended up borrowing Rs 9,043 crore.

A substantial portion of these borrowings – 74.11% by 2024 – was directed toward repaying existing loans. In contrast, in 2019, only 52.99% of the debt was used for such repayments, pointing toward a "debt trap".

However, the Sukhu government's several moves in the last few years to tackle the state's financial crisis seemed to have "backfired". In 2024, the government announced that salaries of the government staff would be credited to them on the 5th of every month and pensions on the 10th, as part of efforts to streamline cash flows. However, under stiff resistance from the employee unions and Opposition leaders, this policy lasted barely a month before it was rolled back.

Another notification, which was issued by the additional chief

secretary (Jal Shakti) on September 21, 2024, had proposed a sewage charge of Rs 25 per seat per month for establishments using their own water sources but relying on the state's sewerage network. The clause, framed without consulting stakeholders, sparked immediate public outrage. By the evening of the same day, the government was forced to partially revoke the provision.

Political backlash

Hitting out at the Sukhu government, senior BJP leader and MP Ravi Shankar Prasad charged that its notification move was reflective of the Congress's failed "khatakhata (swift) model".

Addressing the media Monday, Prasad said: "Is deceiving the public before elections the only way Congress knows? Can the so-called 'khatakhata model' solve farmer issues? Can it address youth unemployment? Whether it is Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, or Telangana, the Congress's governance record everywhere is abysmal. The truth is that Congress lacks policy, intent, and capability."

BJP MLA and spokesperson Randhir Sharma called the row "an act of immaturity on the part of CM Sukhu and his government". "What the government did Monday was not a new thing under this regime," he said.

UNREST IN NEPAL

Ongoing negotiations for criminals' exchange put on hold: Govt to HP HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10

THE CENTRE has told the Himachal Pradesh High Court that the ongoing treaty negotiations for the exchange of absconding criminals with Nepal have been put on hold in view of the political turmoil in the neighbouring country.

The Nepal Army on Wednesday imposed nationwide restrictive orders followed by a curfew to quell possible violence under the guise of protest, a day after deadly anti-government demonstrations forced Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's resignation, leaving key buildings in flames and the nation on edge.

During the hearing on a set of criminal appeals filed by the state against Mahesh Khattary and others on Tuesday, Senior Panel Counsel for Union government Lokinder Paul Thakur informed the high court that the ongoing treaty negotiations with Nepal for the exchange of absconding criminals have been put on hold due to political turmoil and unrest in Nepal.

The counsel also sought additional six-week time for compliance in regard to execution of the warrants of accused from Nepal in various cases.

Considering this, the high court deferred the hearing in the matter till November 17, 2025.

On July 8, a bench comprising Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Sushil Kukreja had noted that despite India sharing a counter-draft of the treaty with Nepal on February 6, no response had been received from Kathmandu.

Congress MLA's fast against 'unscientific' widening of national highway enters day 3

SAURABH PARASHAR
SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 10

THE FAST-unto-death of Congress Dharampur MLA Chander Shekhar in Mandi district against the Ministry of Road Transport and National Highways (MoRTH), alleging serious irregularities by a private company in the widening project of the National Highway 3, entered its third day on

Wednesday. He, however, refused to meet MoRTH representatives.

The MLA went on an indefinite hunger strike at Avah Devi Chowk in Dharampur on Monday evening, alleging "unscientific four-laning of the NH-3 by cutting hills at 90 degrees and putting almost 420 houses at risk, with several houses developing cracks in the walls and roofs". The four-laning of the NH-3, which connects Amritsar, Jalandhar,

Mandi, Manali and Leh and passes through the Dharampur Assembly constituency, was started in 2021, but is yet to be completed. He said, "The stretch between Hamirpur and Mandi, which has affected our area, is being looked after by the NH-MoRHT. Officials have been trying to communicate with me since I sat on hunger strike, but I refused. There is no point in meeting them at this time."

Punjab national bank
Asset Recovery & Monitoring Branch (ARMB)

Plot no. 10, B-Block,
Distt. Shopping Complex,
Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
Where as the undersigned being the "Authorised Officer" of Punjab National Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the respective borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account.

The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank, for the amounts, other charges, costs, expenses and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the

Section 13 of Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Name of the NPA Account	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding
(i) M/s J.R. Mehra & Company (through its Proprietor Sh. Rakesh Mehra S/o Sh. Radhey Sham Mehra) Shop no. 14, Batti Hattan, Guru Bazar, Amritsar 143001 (ii) Sh. Rakesh Mehra S/o Sh. Radhey Sham Mehra (Proprietor) House no. 248, Basant Avenue, Amritsar 143001 (iii) Sh. Supriya Mehra W/o Sh. Rakesh Mehra (Guarantor) House no. 248, Basant Avenue, Amritsar 143001 (iv) Sh. Rajesh Mehra S/o Sh. Radhey Sham Mehra (Legal heir of Smt. Kanchan Mehra) House no. 248, Basant Avenue, Amritsar, 143001 (v) Sh. Rakesh Mehra S/o Sh. Radhey Sham Mehra (Legal heir of Smt. Kanchan Mehra) House no. 248, Basant Avenue, Amritsar, 143001	05-08-2019	10-09-2025	Rs. 44,95,000/- + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 30-07-2019 & less recovery if any, till date affected

Description of the Immovable Property : Equitable mortgage of Commercial Building Property measuring 33 sq. yards, Khana Shumari no. 5/6, 9/6, 14/6-1, situated at 14-Bazar, Batti Hattan Chowk, Circle no. 110, Guru Bazaar, Chaurasi Altari, Amritsar.

Date : 10-09-2025

Place : Amritsar

Sd/- Authorised Officer



Reg. :- Notice for Redemption in terms of the right vested with you under Section 13(8) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Sir / Madam(s),

As you are aware that the Authorized Officer of the bank has issued a demand notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT on below mentioned date as a measure for enforcement of security interest in the secured asset offered by you as security in the subject loan account. Subsequently, the Authorized Officer while taking further measures under section 13(4) of the Act, took possession of the Secured Asset on below mentioned date. As you have failed to discharge your liabilities of the bank, therefore, the undersigned as authorized officer, in exercise of its power under section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has decided to sell the properties secured assets as described below through E-Auction for realization of debts due to the Bank from above mentioned Borrower & Guarantors.

Your attention is invited to the Section 13(8) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, in respect of the time available (i.e. 30 days), to redeem the Secured Assets. Kindly note that your right under Section 13(8) will cease from the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the Secured Asset.

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Details of Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Properties are as under :-

Name of the Borrower and Guarantors / Branch	Demand Notice Date	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice	Details of the Movable / Immovable Properties	Total Outstanding as on	Reserve Price
(1) (i) Sh. Om Prakash Sharma S/o Sh. Avinash Chander, R/o Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Daulo Nangal, Post Beas, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar 143021 (Borrower) (ii) Sh. Vishal Sharma S/o Sh. Om Prakash Sharma, R/o Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Daulo Nangal, Post Beas, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar 143021 (Co-Borrower) (iii) Sh. Gurmeher Singh S/o Sh. Surinder Singh, R/o Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Daulo Nangal, Post Beas, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar 143021 (Guarantor) (iv) Smt. Radha Sharma W/o Sh. Om Prakash Sharma R/o Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Daulo Nangal, Post Beas, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar 143021 (Guarantor) Branch : Wazir Bhullar, Distt. Amritsar	08-04-2021 18-05-2022	Rs. 8,30,117.65 Dr. + future interest and costs from 31-03-2021	Residential House bearing Khasra no. 1307/1 (4-0) having measuring 6 Marla which is bounded by (as per sale deed) East : Plot of Nirmal Singh, West : Remaining Land of Surinder Singh, North : Land of Veer Singh, South : Gali 10 wide, situated at Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Beas, Amritsar, Owned by Sh. Om Prakash Sharma S/o Sh. Avinash Chander	Rs. 13,04,005.59 Dr. as on 29-05-2024 + Interest and expenses.	Rs. 24 Lakhs
(2) (i) Mr. Jaswinder Pal Singh S/o Mr. Gurdial Singh, R/o House no. 186, Krishna Nagar, Murabbe Wali Gali, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar (Borrower) (ii) Mr. Jagpal Singh S/o Mr. Jaswinder Pal Singh R/o House no. 186, Krishna Nagar, Murabbe Wali Gali, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar (Borrower) (iii) Smt. Jagdish Kaur W/o Mr. Jaswinder Pal Singh R/o House no. 186 Krishna Nagar, Murabbe Wali Gali, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar (Guarantor) Branch : Kot Mangal Singh, Amritsar	04-07-2017 21-02-2018	Rs. 19,79,551/50 Dr. + future interest and costs from 30-06-2017	One House bearing Plot no. 186, total area 100 sq yards bearing Khasra no. 1147 min (Old), situated in the area of Wakia Rakba Sultanwind Urban, Abadi Krishna Nagar, Tehsil and District Amritsar vide Sale Deed no. 1454, Zaid Bahl no. 1, Jild no. 14274, Page no. 6566, Registered on 20-05-2015 with Sub-Registrar, Amritsar I, owned by Mr. Jaswinder Pal Singh and Mr. Jagpal Singh.	Rs. 47,59,297.23 Dr. as on 31-08-2025 + Interest and expenses.	Rs. 17.10 Lakhs
(3) (i) Mr Dilbag Singh S/o Mr Ranjit Singh R/o House no. L6/830, Gali no. 2, New Shaheed Uddham Singh Nagar, Amritsar (Borrower) (ii) Mr. Ranjit Singh S/o Nirjan Singh R/o House no. L6/830, Gali no. 2, New Shaheed Uddham Singh Nagar, Amritsar (Borrower) (iii) Mrs. Darshan Kaur W/o Ranjit Singh R/o House no. 18, Gali no. 3 New Azad Nagar, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar (Borrower) (iv) Mr. Yadavinder Singh S/o Shivdev Singh, R/o P17, Canal Avenue, Near Kapoor Nagar, Opposite Petrol Pump, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar (Guarantor) Branch : Kot Mangal Singh, Amritsar	18-07-2016 20-02-2019	Rs. 19,85,696/- Dr. + future interest and costs from 17-07-2016	One House bearing Private no. 39 having length 45 feet and breadth 20 feet, total area 100 sq yards bearing Khasra no. 2226/8 min, situated in the area of Sultanwind Sub Urban Tarad Behnwal, Abadi New Kapoor Nagar, Amritsar vide Sale Deed dt. 30-07-2015 duly Registered with Office of Sub-Registrar, Amritsar-I vide Document no. 3605, Book no. 1, Volume no. 14331 at Page no. 910, in favour of Dilbag Singh, Ranjit Singh & Darshan Kaur and bounded by North : Gali, South : Property of Others, East : Ownership of Mr. Gurdev Singh, West : Ownership of others	Rs. 51,79,857/- Dr. as on 31-08-2025 + Interest and expenses.	Rs. 17.30 Lakhs
(4) (i) M/s Universal Decorators & Convertors, situated at 48/171-B, Basant Avenue, Amritsar through its Proprietor Mr. Deepak S/o Mr. Baldev Gupta (Borrower) (ii) Sh. Deepak S/o Sh. Baldev Gupta, R/o House no. 101-D, RB Estate, Loharka Road, Amritsar (Borrower) (iii) Mohinder Kaur W/o Tarlochan Singh R/o House no. 101-D, RB Estate, Loharka Road, Amritsar (Guarantor) (iv) Sh. Amandeep Singh Narang S/o Sh. Tarlochan Singh R/o House no. 101-D, RB Estate, Loharka Road, Amritsar (Guarantor) Branch : Court Road, Amritsar	06-10-2017 30-07-2024	Rs. 59,25,442.40 + future interest and costs w.e.f. 29-09-2017	Plot No. 101-D, Khasra No. 24/1/21, 28/1 both Min, Khata Kathoni No. 7/28, situated at Rakba Village Meenarkot Khurd, Abadi R.B Estate, Loharka Road Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar	Rs. 1,68,99,634.70 Dr. as on 10-09-2025 + Interest and expenses.	Rs. 87 Lakhs
(5) (i) Sh. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Sh. Satpal Mahajan (Borrower) House no. 11, Near Gurudwara Kalighat, Vikas Nagar, Khandwala, Backside GNDU, Near IIM Campus, Amritsar (ii) Sh. Ram Rattan S/o Sh. Huzur Lal (Guarantor) House no. 3109/7, Gali no. 3, Near Panji Wali Terki, Giani Wali Gate, Amritsar (iii) Smt. Sunita Mahajan W/o Sh. Sanjeev Kumar (Guarantor) House no. 11, Near Gurudwara Kalighat, Vikas Nagar, Khandwala, Backside GNDU, Near IIM Campus, Amritsar Branch : Tunda Talab, Amritsar	05-04-2021 15-09-2022	Rs. 4,34,248.17 + future interest and costs w.e.f. 31-03-2021	One House bearing Plot Private no. 11, measuring 75 sq yards bearing Khasra no. 73/18, 19/1, 23/1 situated at Abadi Vikas Nagar, Kala Ghanpur Sub-Urban, Amritsar, owned by Sh. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Sh. Satpal Mahajan vide Sale Deed dated 10-12-2001 duly Registered with the Office of Sub-Registrar, Amritsar-I vide Document no. 11356, Book no. 1, Volume no. 1296 at Page no. 99100 entered on 10-12-2001	Rs. 6,33,671.41 Dr. as on 30-05-2025 + Interest and expenses.	Rs. 11.60 Lakhs
(6) (i) M/s Star Enterprises through its Prop. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Sh. Satpal Mahajan, situated at Near Krishna Mandir, Opposite Grain Market, Naranagar, Chheharta, Amritsar Also at House no. 11, Near Gurudwara Kalighat, Vikas Nagar, Khandwala, Backside GNDU, Near IIM Campus, Amritsar (ii) Sh. Parveen Kumar S/o Sh. Baldev Raj, House no. 349SA, Gali no. 4, Ranipura, Putilgarh, Amritsar (iii) Vipin Kumar S/o Sh. Kuldeep Raj, House no. 105/3, Gali no. 3, Vijay Nagar, Batala Road, Amritsar (iv) Smt. Sunita Mahajan W/o Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, House no. 11, Near Gurudwara Kalighat, Vikas Nagar, Khandwala, Backside GNDU, Near IIM Campus, Amritsar Branch : Tunda Talab, Amritsar	05-04-2021 15-09-2022	Rs. 9,40,401.3			