



*Jehlum Post News/Srinagar/ Apr 29, 2015/Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu Wednesday said the government is pursuing the flood relief package of 44 thousand crore rupees with the Government of India (GOI) and that reports over squeezing it to mere Rs 1500 crores are incorrect. Talking to local news agency, Drabu said that the state dispensation is in the continuous touch with the GOI over the flood rehabilitation package and also the world bank has assessed the damage caused to the private and public infra structure as rupees 21 thousand crores due to ravaging flood of September last year. "How could the package be a mere 1500 crore rupees when even a proper assessment of the losses has been done by the World Bank," Drabu said.*

*The finance minister added that the damage has been separated into two parts. "One is private infrastructure which include houses, shops and other properties which were damaged and the second one is the public infrastructure which includes roads, bridges, hospitals, government infrastructure," said Drabu adding that the public infrastructure could be rebuild with the assistance from the concerned union ministries while as damage caused to the private infrastructure in the state would be mitigated by the finance ministry, world bank and state government also. Over the recent statement of the union home minister Rajnath Singh about the 50 acres of land being given to the migrant pundits, Drabu maintained: "All internal discussions have been on rehabilitating the Kashmiri pundits in inclusive mixed habitations and not in isolated pockets." Replying to a two-day debate on the demand for grants of his ministry, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh expressed government's commitment to rehabilitate the exiled Kashmiri pandits in the valley. He said the chief minister has promised to earmark 50 acres of land as a first instalment for this purpose. The statement created uproar in valley with several mainstream and separatist parties castigating the move.*