

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 220
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2024

DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS UNDER SCM

***220. DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:**

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), including the number of projects completed and the amount of funds sanctioned and disbursed;
- (b) the reasons for extending the deadline for the SCM to March 2025;
- (c) the reasons for the slow pace of progress and delays in project completion under this mission; and
- (d) the specific measures Government is taking or is planning to take to address these delays and to expedite the completion of projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI MANOHAR LAL)

(a) to (d): The Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 220* (10th POSITION) FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2024 REGARDING DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS UNDER SCM

- (a) As on 15.11.2024, under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), work orders have been issued in 8,066 projects amounting to ₹1,64,669 crore, of which 7,352 projects (i.e. 91% of total projects) amounting to ₹1,47,366 crore have been completed, as per the data provided by 100 Smart Cities. Thirteen (13) cities have completed all their projects undertaken in the Smart Cities Mission, followed by forty-eight (48) cities with more than 90% completed projects and another twenty-three (23) cities with more than 75% completed projects. Remaining 714 projects amounting to ₹17,303 crore are currently in implementation stage.

Under SCM, the Central Government has a total outlay of ₹48,000 crore for the 100 cities. As on 15.11.2024, the Central Government has released ₹47,225 crore (i.e. 98% of the total Central share allocation) to States/Union Territories under SCM, out of which ₹44,626 crore (i.e. 94% of the total Central share released) have been utilized.

- (b) and (c) Government of India's policy and strategy for Indian Urban Development follows the provisions as laid down in the Constitution of India. It is pertinent to mention here that 'Land' and 'Colonization' are State subjects. Further, as per the 12th Schedule of Indian Constitution (Article 243W), Urban Planning including Town Planning is the responsibility of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Urban Development Authorities. However, Government of India views high urbanization as an opportunity towards aspirations of faster economic development. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories.

As apprised by the Smart Cities, the challenges encountered in implementing smart city projects include, *inter alia*, legal issues, delay in obtaining clearances from different departments, land acquisition, construction in hilly areas, challenges in vendor and resource availability in small & medium cities, centralization of decision making in few cities, utilization of full capacity of ICCCs with integration of all municipal departments and agencies, frequent changing and dropping of projects.

On the request received from various State/UT Governments, the period of SCM has been extended up to 31st March, 2025.

- (d) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has a multi-level review structure to expedite the progress of projects under the SCM. At State level, Mission implementation is monitored by the State level High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary. At the National level, implementation is monitored by an Apex Committee headed by Secretary, MoHUA. Nominee Directors of MoHUA on the Boards of SPVs monitor progress in respective cities on a regular basis. MoHUA also regularly interacts with the States /Smart Cities through video conferences, review meetings, field visits, regional workshops, Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Conference etc. at various levels to assess the performance of the 100 smart cities / ULBs and handhold them for improving the same, wherever required.
