

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 56
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2026**

INSTITUTIONALISATION OF WARD-LEVEL CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES

56. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

Will the Minister of *Housing and Urban Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to promote ward-level citizen participation and institutionalise participatory urban governance through citizen assemblies and other consultative mechanisms;
- (b) the status of the constitution and functioning of Ward Committees, wherever applicable, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (c) whether the Central Government has evolved any framework to facilitate, monitor and strengthen the functioning of Ward Committees and other participatory bodies in urban local governance, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the financial, technical and capacity-building support being extended under various central urban development programmes to enhance citizen participation and strengthen ward-level governance, along with the details?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (d): As per entry 5 of List II – State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, ‘Local Government’, that is to say, the constitution and powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts, districts boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for the purpose of local self-government or village administration, is a state subject.

Further, Article 243S of the Constitution provides for the constitution of Ward Committees in municipalities having a population of three lakh or more to promote decentralized urban governance. It mandates that such committees shall comprise one or more wards, with their composition, territorial jurisdiction, and functions to be determined by the State Legislature by law. The elected representatives of the respective wards are members of these committees, and where a committee includes multiple wards, one member is designated as the Chairperson. The Article also empowers States to constitute other committees to enhance citizen participation in municipal governance, thereby strengthening grassroots democracy in urban areas.

As regards financial, technical and capacity-building support extended under various urban development programmes of this Ministry, the training programmes for ULB officials/ functionaries, technicians, contractors, operational staff, Women Self Help Groups, etc. are conducted regularly under AMRUT/ AMRUT 2.0 Missions and around 1,13,509 persons have so far been trained. Through AMRUT Mitra initiative under AMRUT 2.0, women Self Help Groups (SHG) are involved in water demand management, water quality testing and other water sectoral projects, including maintenance of parks and green spaces. As on date, 5709 projects worth ₹361.76 crore have been approved under AMRUT Mitra.
