

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2376
TO BE ANSWERED ON AUGUST 03, 2023
OPEN SPACES FOR URBAN COMMUNITIES**

NO. 2376. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether there is a need for open spaces for urban communities under SCM as 50 per cent of the country's population is living in inadequate housing space in urban areas;**
- (b) if so, whether to ensure better physical and mental well-being of people, over 200 projects, covering approximately 2.75 lakh sq. meter, have been completed so far in more than 55 cities in the country;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) the funds allocated/sanctioned and utilised in this regard?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

(a) to (d) : Open spaces in urban areas are vital for better health and quality of life of communities. These open spaces make the city more inclusive, bring about social cohesion, and contribute to the city's unique character.

Government of India launched Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on 25 June 2015. 100 Smart Cities have been selected through 4 rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018.

Under SCM, more than 1000 projects for development of open/public spaces worth over ₹ 6,270 crore have been completed while 280 such projects worth more than ₹ 5,600 crore are at advanced stages of implementation. These projects, inter alia, relate to preserving and developing parks and gardens, constructing playgrounds, water fronts, markets, and recreational spaces, creating all-ability parks, green corridors, community parks, anganwadi and school precinct development etc.

Under SCM, the concept of place-making has been pioneered wherein low cost, quick implementations have enabled transformation of more than 230 underutilized/misutilized community spaces totaling around an area of 2.39 lakh sq.mtrs. in the 100 Smart Cities. These projects entail a strong element of citizen engagement as communities are involved right from the planning stage to the maintenance of assets created. These interventions are helping enhance the quality of life of citizens, reduce urban heat island effects and improve the visual character of the city.

As on 7 July 2023, 74 percent of overall Smart City projects have already been completed.
