

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 66
TO BE ANSWERED ON JULY 20, 2023**

PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

NO. 66. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether any steps are proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the participation of public representatives in the Smart Cities mission;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take concrete steps for this as the public representatives are ignored at local level in the projects and planning related to smart cities and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of the institute/agency assigned with the work of Prayagraj Smart City;**
- (d) whether any complaint has been received related to the quality of work and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the details of the timeline fixed for the completion of the work of Prayagraj Smart City?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : 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.

Implementation of SCM at the city level is done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for the purpose. The Mission Guidelines provide for establishment of Smart City Advisory Forums (SCAF) in all Smart Cities.

These SCAFs, inter alia, consist of Member(s) of Parliament, Member(s) of Legislative Assembly, Mayor, District Collector, local youth, technical experts, and other stakeholders. SCAFs have the mandate to advise and enable collaboration among various stakeholders in Smart City development. Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) and Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) play a very significant role in advising the respective Smart Cities on effective implementation of Smart City Projects. All Smart Cities have constituted their SCAFs and have so far convened more than 765 SCAF meetings.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has, from time to time, also issued letters to all CEOs and State Principal Secretaries to instill upon them the necessity to hold regular meetings of SCAF. Further, conduct of SCAF meetings has been included as a key parameter for the ranking of Smart Cities.

(c) : Prayagraj Smart City Limited (PSCL) has informed that it has assigned its project management consultancy to M/s Meinhardt Singapore Private Limited. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is associated as third-party Quality Controller for its different projects. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed with Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Prayagraj for seeking inputs/opinion in sector related projects. The works under Smart Cities Mission are carried out by various Government line-Departments such as Prayagraj Development Authority, Prayagraj Nagar Nigam, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL), Military Engineering Service apart from Prayagraj Smart City Limited as working agencies. The projects are handled by various contractors/ agencies selected through due procedures.

(d) : As implementation of SCM at the city level is done by SPVs, the complaints/grievances, whenever received, are communicated to the respective State Governments for conduct of necessary inquiry and taking appropriate action, as deemed fit. In some cases, MoHUA also appoints third-party evaluation teams to examine issues.

(e) : The period of implementation of SCM has been extended upto June 2024 and all Smart Cities, including Prayagraj, are expected to complete their projects within the stipulated time.