GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3124 TO BE ANSWERED ON AUGUST 04, 2022

GUIDELINES UNDER SCM

NO. 3124 SHRI SHA.BRA.DR.JAI SIDDESHWAR:
SHIVACHARYA MAHASWAMIJI:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:
SHRI SANGANNA AMARAPPA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any guidelines to monitor the quality of work, especially those given to local bodies or contractors under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any other modality to ensure quality of work under its projects, in order to avoid the issues of quality checks, guaranteeing maintenance, integrity of contractors, etc. and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the standards set under SCM are different from the standards set up by the local municipal bodies for building of roads, buildings, walkways, subways, etc. and if so, the differences in the standards and the process devised by the Government to ensure standards are maintained for its projects?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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.

The implementation of SCM at the city level is done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for the purpose. SPVs are responsible for planning, implementation, operation, monitoring, and evaluation of their Smart City projects. The Mission Statement & Guidelines, while prescribing key functions and responsibilities of these SPVs also, inter alia, stipulate these SPVs to monitor and review quality control related matters and act upon issues arising thereof. SPVs appoint third party agencies/academic institutions to check quality of works as needed. A Smart City Advisory Forum comprising of Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, District Collector, Mayor, local youth, experts, prominent citizens etc. has been established in all Smart Cities to provide oversight on Mission implementation.

At State level, SCM implementation is monitored by the State level High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary of the State. At the National level, implementation of SCM is monitored by an Apex Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Nominee Directors of MoHUA on the Boards of SPVs monitor progress in respective cities on a regular basis. MoHUA regularly monitors States/Smart Cities through video conferences, review meetings, field visits, regional workshops etc. at various levels to assess the performance of cities and handhold them for improving the same. Smart Cities are assessed on various parameters including, but not limited to, project implementation and utilization of funds through the Online Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS).

The Mission encourages State Governments and Smart Cities to adopt best practices while implementing projects. Projects under the Mission incorporate smart elements, appropriate design standards, standards for technology like communication infrastructure, data systems and Internet of Things (IoT) etc. In this regard, Model Request for Proposals (RFPs), model policies, Standard Operating Procedures, guidelines for project implementation are issued by the Mission from time to time.
