

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 357
TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 19, 2024

COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING

NO. 357. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI:

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

- (a) the key objectives and expected outcomes of the High-power Committee tasked with drafting a model of urban planning for governance particularly with respect to the challenges faced by urban areas like Delhi;**
- (b) the manner in which the Government would ensure that the recommendations of the Committee reflect the needs and challenges faced by various urban areas across the country; and**
- (c) the timeline fixed for the Committee to complete its work along with the manner in which its findings would be implemented in existing urban governance frameworks?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI MANOHAR LAL)

(a) to (c): The statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *357 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19 DECEMBER 2024 REGARDING “COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING”

(a) to (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has not constituted any High-power Committee tasked with drafting model of urban planning for governance. However, a High Level Committee of reputed urban planners, urban economists and institutions was constituted by MoHUA on 31.05.2022 to make recommendations on urban sector policies, capacity building, planning, implementation and governance. The term of the Committee has expired on 31st July, 2024.

The terms of reference of the Committee inter alia, were to study urban planning scenario in States/ cities with identification of gaps and suggesting short/ medium/ long term solutions; Innovative ideas and technological intervention on urban planning to enable cities to become ‘engines of economic growth and innovation’; facilitate cities to become sustainable based on carrying capacity of ecosystem support; studying past committees’ recommendations/ NITI Aayog report on ‘Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India’ and status of action taken; capacity building and handhold the States in urban planning reforms, etc. The Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry.

As per 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India, urban planning including town planning is the function of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Urban Development Authorities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States.

The recommendations of the High Level Committee with regard to capacity building of town and country planners/ State officials, sustainable urbanization, regional planning, urban financing, environment sustainability and climate resilience, water planning, mobility and walkability, etc are covered through various initiatives of the Ministry.

MoHUA has issued Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014 ([https://mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/URDPFI%20Guidelines%20Vol%20I\(2\).pdf](https://mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/URDPFI%20Guidelines%20Vol%20I(2).pdf)) which inter alia deals with urban planning and governance including sustainability and various challenges faced by the urban areas including Delhi.

MoHUA is implementing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), under which there is a Sub-Scheme on Formulation of GIS based Master plans for AMRUT cities. The Sub-Scheme aims at geo data base creation and formulation of GIS based Master Plans. At present, 461 AMRUT Cities in 35 States are on boarded under the scheme. So far, 219 towns have notified their Master Plans and Master plans for 158 towns are at Draft Stage.

Under AMRUT 2.0, Scheme for Formulation of GIS based Master Plans has been extended to cover Class-II Towns with population of 50,000 - 99,999. So far, 661 Class-II towns have submitted proposal under the scheme.

MoHUA has designated four Institutes as Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning & Design for developing India specific knowledge in urban planning and design, and to deliver certified training/ certified courses to Civil Servants, State Town Planners, Municipal officials, practitioners/ professionals, young students etc. These institutes are:

- (i) School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi**
- (ii) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**
- (iii) CEPT, Ahmedabad**
- (iv) NIT Calicut**

These Centres of Excellence (CoEs) will serve as an interdisciplinary platform in the field of urban planning, urban design, and allied fields. CoEs will also partner with Cities on real on-ground projects and on initiatives under urban planning reforms.

In order to incentivize States to undertake urban planning reforms, Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance implemented following Schemes:

i. Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2022-23 – Part VI (Urban Planning Reforms) - The reform components included Modernization of Building Bylaws by removing contradictions and optimizing land use, adoption of modern urban planning tools like Transferrable Development Rights (TDR), implementation of Local Area Plans (LAP) and Town Planning Schemes (TPS), implementation of Transit-oriented Development (ToD). Further States were incentivized for Creation of Sponge Cities, Removing Taxation for running the Buses for Public Transport.

ii. Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24 – Part III (Urban Planning Reforms) - The reform components included augmentation of human resources by hiring of qualified urban planners, implementation of Town Planning Scheme (TPS)/ Land Pooling Scheme, Modernization of Building Bylaws, promoting Affordable Housing and in-situ slum rehabilitation, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), Transferable Development Rights as planning tool, strengthening natural ecosystems of urban areas through urban planning, development of waterfronts etc.
