

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4436  
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 19, 2026  
STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UCF**

**NO. 4436. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:**

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

- (a) the current status of implementation of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 along with an outlay of Rupees One lakh crore to support initiatives such as 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation';**
- (b) the details and number of the projects that have been approved or are under consideration for funding under UCF for Andhra Pradesh;**
- (c) whether any proposals for Tirupati district, a major pilgrimage and urban growth centre, have been submitted or approved under this initiative and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) if not, the reasons for non-inclusion despite Tirupati's urban infrastructure needs; and**
- (e) the mechanisms in place to ensure fair evaluation, timely approvals and equitable disbursement of funds to underserved urban areas in Andhra Pradesh?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e): Government, in the Budget 2025-26, has announced setting up of an Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of ₹1 lakh crore. UCF supports the strengthening of urban infrastructure through implementation of projects under three verticals namely 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and, 'Water and Sanitation'. Cabinet has granted approval for UCF on 13 February, 2026. Till date, no project has been approved under UCF. Guidelines for UCF are under preparation.**

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