

PRESS RELEASE

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (2024-25)

THE THIRD REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (2024-25) ON THE “DEMAND FOR GRANTS (2025-26) OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS”

Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2024-25) today presented in Lok Sabha the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2024-25) on the “Demand for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs”.

Gist of some of the important Observations/Recommendations made in the Report as follows:

Subject	Recommendations
Need for a vision for ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047	The Committee recommended the Ministry to consult all stakeholders and prepare broad vision document for ‘Viksit Bharat’@2047’ for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and thereby align the Budgetary allocations to the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’. (Recommendation No.1)
Emphasis on Urban Planning	The Committee have suggested that the Ministry should formulate a Scheme wherein it would be mandatory for all ULBs to prepare an ‘urban development plan and strategy with a holistic and futuristic

	<p>approach'. To assist the ULBs in this exercise, the Ministry should engage global technical consultants and world-class town planners/experts and provide necessary funding.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No.2)</p>
<p>Avoid delay in finalisation and necessary approvals for implementation of various Schemes/Missions/Programmes of the Ministry</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that the Ministry should ensure that both 'Urban Challenge Fund' and 'Scheme for Industrial Housing' are designed and guidelines prepared at the earliest and all the approvals be also sought without any delay so as to ensure that Rs. 10,000 crore and Rs.2,500 crore respectively allocated to these two Schemes in the Budget 2025-26 are utilized within the financial year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No.4)</p>
<p>Progress under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban)</p>	<p>In order to ensure timely occupancy of completed houses under PMAY(U) and PMAY(U) 2.0, the Committee recommended the Ministry to direct the States and UTs to converge various Centrally and State sponsored Schemes such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for providing required infrastructure and civic amenities at the site for effective and efficient utilization of public resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No. 5)</p>
<p>Accurate Data on Homeless Population in Urban Areas</p>	<p>The urban population is projected to reach 876 million in 2047. As per census 2011, the total urban homeless population in the country is 9,38,348. The Committee opined that updated and accurate data on Homeless population in urban areas is crucial for the proper implementation of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and thus, recommended that the Ministry should conduct a fresh and comprehensive survey to ascertain the exact number of homeless individuals so that the objective of 'Housing for all' can be achieved through the revamped PMAY(U) 2.0.</p>

	(Recommendation No.6)
Increased Central Assistance for dwelling units PMAY-U 2.0	<p>The Committee are concerned that post-COVID inflation has significantly increased the cost of construction materials and it would clearly be difficult for the intended beneficiaries who are EWS, LIG and MIG households with annual income up to ₹3 lakh, ₹3-6 lakh and ₹6-9 lakh respectively to afford to purchase a house in an urban area even under PMAY(U). The Committee strongly feel that central assistance per dwelling unit under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical need to be revised proportionally under PMAY(U) 2.0 to reflect the increased construction costs and also to ensure the successful implementation of the scheme.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No.7)</p>
Revival and Expansion of Urban Employment Schemes	<p>Considering the fact that one of the Ministry's mandate is implementation of the specific programmes for urban employment and now with the end of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) there is no specific schemes for urban employment. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry must make use of the learning from the DAY NULM and without further delay re-launch the Mission with increased funding and also introduce new, direct employment-generating schemes to address urban unemployment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation No.11)</p>
Investment in Sustainable Urban Development and need for capacity building of Urban Local Bodies	<p>To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Committee recommended the Ministry to take proactive steps in promoting sustainable urban infrastructure by assigning dedicated funds for Research and Development (R&D) in environment-friendly building materials and encourage the adoption of green energy solutions at grass-root level in urban planning and construction.</p>

In order to empower the Urban Local Bodies, the Committee recommended the Ministry to conduct a study and evaluate the manpower requirement at the citizen-government interface level, that is, at the Local Government level to achieve the targets of a 'Viksit Bharat' and also recommend formulation and launching of a focused programme for the capacity building of the employees of Urban Local Bodies to enhance their efficiency in execution of various Projects/Missions and Schemes of the Government.

(Recommendation No.14)