

Need to strengthen the Urban Governance System

2486. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the need to strengthen the Urban Governance systems in view of the massive building construction activities in new urban areas drawing thousands of migrant workers from adjacent villages and even States leading to mushrooming of slums, depletion of water bodies and environmental problems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Urbanization is a natural phenomenon influenced amongst others by the nature of local economy, education, nature of employment, marriage etc.

The population growth in urban areas is exerting pressure on basic urban services. Urban Development is a State subject and the State Governments have to take action for ameliorating pressures on cities. The Government of India supports States in their efforts through schemes. The Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a reform driven scheme in 2005. The Urban Infrastructure and Governance component handled by Ministry of Urban Development seeks to improve urban infrastructure and transport in 65 identified cities. The needs of the small and medium towns are catered to by the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) programme. In addition, financial assistance for urban infrastructure is also being provided by the Ministry of Urban Development under the 10 percent lumpsum scheme for the development of North Eastern region including Sikkim, the ADB aided North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme and Pilot Scheme on Development of Urban Infrastructure in Satellite Towns around the seven mega cities, besides identified metro and other projects. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has also launched a number of programmes which include provision of affordable housing for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Lower Income Group (LIG) segments of the society through various schemes like Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), Rajiv RinnYojna (RNN) etc.

Ministry of Urban Development has also issued guidelines/advisories on conservation and water bodies in urban areas, greening of urban areas etc. reinforcing the policies notified by various sectorial Ministries. It is for the State Governments and State legislatures to direct the local Bodies/Development Authorities concerned by issue of executive instructions/legislations to adopt and implement the scheme.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Short Notice Question No. 1, Shri Prakash Javadekar ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, you can put your question.

Appointment in National Steel Consumers Council

1. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the rules, people from Iron & Steel, house building and related industries can only be appointed as members of National Steel Consumers' Council;

(b) if so, the action that the Ministry has taken against the appointment of more than 1000 members in National Steel Consumers' Council without having background from Iron and Steel, house building and related industries;

(c) whether these members have been extended cash and gifts worth crores on 03 February, 2014 in Lucknow at a meeting of the said council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) No Sir. The Steel Consumers' Council (SCC) consists of the representatives of the Government, producers and consumers of iron and steel, house builders and related industries. There, is no limit on the number of consumers who can be members of the Council. The notification of the Steel Consumers' Council issued vide Resolution No.5(2)/2011-DI dated 14.3.2011 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per rules, outstation members invited to attend the meeting may