

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.557
TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 12, 2022

CRITICAL ISSUES FACED BY INDIAN CITIES

NO.557. SHRI N.R.ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether World Bank identified five 'critical issues' faced by Indian cities viz., poor local governance, weak finances of cities and town, inappropriate planning leading to high costs of housing and office space, which are among the highest in the world in our big metros, critical infrastructure shortages of everything from water to power to transportation, and, above all, a rapidly deteriorating environment; and
- (b) if so, corrective steps taken/being taken by Government keeping in view the fact that between 1960 and 2020, India's share of urban population has nearly doubled, from 18 percent to over 35 percent?

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

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Urban planning is a State subject. As per 12th schedule of the Constitution Amendment Act, 1992, urban planning is the function of Urban Local Bodies/ Urban Development Authorities subject to the transfer of the functions by the State Government. Government of India has only advisory role in the matter. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) supports States/ Union Territories in handling critical issues faced by the cities by issuing advisories and design standards, providing schematic interventions and financial assistance.

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2. MoHUA has from time to time issued advisories such as:

- Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines, 1996
- Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2015
- Model Building Byelaws (MBBL), 2016
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, 2021-30

3. In order to address urban planning issues, NITI Aayog has brought out a report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India, 2021'.

4. In line with para 69 of budget speech for the year 2022-23, a High-Level Committee (HLC) on Urban Planning has been constituted by MoHUA to make recommendations on urban sector policies, capacity building, planning, implementation and governance. HLC consists of reputed urban planners, urban economists and other leading experts.

5. Government of India has issued 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23'. The scheme has provision of incentivizing the States for modernizing the building bye laws, provisions for affordable housing, implementing Online Building Permission System, implementing the Transit Oriented Development and Transferrable Development Rights and, preparing and implementing Local Area Plan and Town Planning Schemes.

6. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 is working for providing tap connections to citizens in all the statutory towns and sewer connections to citizens in AMRUT towns. AMRUT 2.0 also has the provision for preparation of GIS based master plans for Class-II Towns with population of 50,000 - 99,999. AMRUT 2.0 has an incentive based reform for implementing online municipal services.

7. Property tax notification by the States and increase in yearly collection of property tax, in consonance with State's own GSDP, is a mandatory condition for 15th Finance Commission grants for Urban Local Bodies for the year 2022-23 onwards. Notification of property tax by September, 2023 is a mandatory condition for AMRUT 2.0 funds. In order to handhold the States to implement the reforms related to property tax, MoHUA issued a 'Property tax toolkit'. Further, notification for user charges by September, 2023 is a mandatory condition for AMRUT 2.0 funds.
