

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 80
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025

THIRD PARTY AUDIT OF SMART CITIES MISSION PROJECTS

80. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government implemented the Parliamentary Committee's Recommendation for a third-party assessment of Smart Cities Mission projects, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the findings and actions taken based on impact assessment studies conducted in the 100 Smart Cities;
- (c) the steps Government is taking to address delays in the Smart Cities Mission, especially in smaller cities; and
- (d) the manner in which Government plans to strengthen implementation capacity in these cities?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) A mid-term evaluation study was undertaken by 'Niti Aayog' for 'Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Urban Transformation Sector'. As part of the study, Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was evaluated and the report was published in February 2021. Recently, NITI Aayog has initiated a Third Party Assessment of the Mission which has already begun.

Further, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has partnered with reputed academic institutions, for thematic impact assessment of initiatives undertaken by the Smart Cities. The goal of the studies is to understand impact of SCM at City/ National level and compilation of learnings to be shared with other cities and used for any future urban development missions.

- (c) & (d) MoHUA has a multi-level review structure to expedite the progress of projects under the SCM. At the National level, implementation is monitored by an Apex Committee headed by Secretary, MoHUA. At the State level, Mission implementation is monitored by the State level High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary. At the City level, there is a provision for establishing Smart City Advisory Forum (SCAF) for all 100 smart cities to advise and enable collaboration among various stakeholders.

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MoHUA has issued various advisories to the States and Project Implementing Agencies reiterating the importance of consultation process especially the participation of public representatives be scrupulously followed. Nominee Directors of MoHUA on the Boards of Special Purpose Vehicle monitor progress in respective cities on a regular basis. MoHUA also regularly interacts with the States /Smart Cities through video conferences, review meetings, field visits, regional workshops at various levels to expedite the performance of the 100 smart cities / Urban Local Bodies including 45 cities with urban population less than 5 lakhs (as per the Census 2011) and handhold them for improving the same, wherever required.
