

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
SANITARY CONDITION IN METRO CITIES
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its serious concern over the insanitary conditions in the metropolitan cities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute a committee group to suggest measures to check highly insanitary conditions and disposal of solid wastes; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the committee is likely to be constituted?

Answer

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.168 FOR 7.3.2000 REGARDING SANITARY CONDITION IN METRO CITIES.

(a): Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court expressed serious concern over the insanitary conditions in the metropolitan cities during the course of hearing of the Writ Petition (Civil) No.888/96 filed by Ms. Almitra H. Patel against the Union of India, all State Governments and others regarding the deteriorating state of solid waste management in the country.

(b)&(c): In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court dated 16.1.98, the Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, Calcutta Municipal Corporation to look into various aspects of solid waste management in Class I cities in the country and to recommend measures for improving the situation. The Committee in its report dated 25.3.99 had recommended several measures including the constitution of a Technology Mission by the Government for improving solid waste management practices within five years.

As per directions of the Supreme Court, the Committee's report was considered by the Government and it was decided to constitute a Technology Advisory Group under the chairmanship of the Adviser, Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) in the Ministry of Urban Development and consisting of representatives from Ministries of Agriculture, Environment & Forest, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Finance, Planning Commission, Central Pollution Control Board, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, Municipal Corporations of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Surat, etc. The Technology Advisory Group has been constituted on 18.8.99 for a period of five years with the objectives of collecting information on various proven technologies, provide technical assistance to urban local bodies, set benchmark on solid waste management for local bodies, channelise and make optimum use of funds earmarked for Solid Waste Management projects, develop IEC (Information, Education & Communication) material for awareness programmes, human resource development and capacity building.

Further to this, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 15.2.2000 which specifically relates to Delhi has directed the concerned agencies/Ministries to inter alia identify suitable land-fill sites and sites for locating compost plants, ensure protection of public lands, improve sanitation in existing slums, ensure proper sanitation in all public places and appoint Executive Magistrates to try offences relating to littering and causing nuisance in public places.