

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2188
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
ECO-CITY PROJECT
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to develop Eco-City project to beautify small cities with large population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of cities which have been identified for the purpose;
- (d) whether the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation has been approached for support in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board has initiated a programme called Eco-city Programme.

This Programme has been conceptualized for improving environment and achieving sustainable development through a comprehensive urban improvement system employing practical, innovative and non-conventional solutions. The Eco-city Programme was initiated to bring visible environmental improvement in small and medium towns. The following towns have been taken under the first phase of Eco-city Programme to bring visible environmental improvement (1) Vrindavan (UP), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Puri (Orissa), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Kottayam (Kerala), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). In these towns the project area includes only the core area (2-4 sq.km) of the towns and not the entire town. The objectives of the project are to:

1. Identify priority environmental improvement projects through participatory approach.
2. Design and detail the prioritized environmental improvement projects; and
3. Create environmental landmarks that show visible environmental improvement.

The specific projects to be taken up under the programme include:

1. Traffic and Transportation System-Construction/Improvement of roads, parking facilities, pavements, signage, pedestrian zones, etc.
2. Drainage and Sewerage System
3. Plantation and landscaping
4. Solid Waste Management
5. Others depending on local needs.

(c): In the first phase in the 10th Five Year Plan period six towns namely, Vrindavan, Puri, Ujjain, Kottayam, Tirupati and Thanjavur have been taken up.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. United Nation Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has been approached by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) during November, 2005 for furthering the objectives of Eco-city Programme both as value addition to the ongoing projects in the six cities as well as programmatic co-operation for enriching this holistic initiative through more research, capacity building, partnership/networking with model cities for other part of the world. Ministry of Environment has approached UNIDO for exploring the possibilities of synergizing common area of interests.