

11

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(1996-97)**

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

*328365 (P) and Rural
New Delhi*

**MINISTRY OF U. Development, RRS & EMPLOYMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT)**

1996-97

11th L.S

DEMANDS FOR

11th L.S

THE YEAR—1997-98

ELEVENTH REPORT



360

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

3657A

the Committee on Urban
Development (11th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 1997-98' of
the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment 'Department of Urban
Development'

<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(ii)	2 from bottom	<u>Add</u> Physical Progress Under Mega City Scheme as on 31.3.1997 <u>after</u> Annexure	
(ii)	1 from bottom	<u>Add</u> Statement of Observation/ Recommendations <u>after</u> Appendix	
(iii)	9 from top	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel
(iii)	13 from top	Shri Chintaman Vanaga	Shri Chintaman Wanaga
(iii)	16 from top	Shri J.P. Agarwal	Shri J.P. Aggarwal
(iii)	5 from bottom	Shri Subroto Mukherjee	Shri Subrata Mukherjee
(iv)	1 from top	Shri Chhayanna Patrudu	Shri Chhayana Patrudu
(iv)	3 from top	Shri B. Dharmabiksham	Shri B. Dharmabiksham
(iv)	8 from top	Shri Thennala Balakrishna Pallai	Shri Thennala Balakrishna Pillai
(iv)	7 from bottom	Shri G.R. Jeneja	Shri G.R. Juneja
31	<u>Delete</u>	Para 3.3.1	

ELEVENTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(1996-97)

(ELEVENTH LOK SABHA)

MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1996-97) ON
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—1997-98

MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.4.1997

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.4.1997



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 1997/Vaisukha, 1919 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(1996-97)

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
3. Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan
4. Shri Lalmuni Chaubey
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri Chitrasen Sinku
7. Smt. Ketki Singh
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22. Shri L. Balaraman
23. Shri Ramakant Yadav
24. Shri D. Venugopal

• •

25. Shri Chhayanna Patrudu
26. Shri Anant G. Geete
27. Shri B. Dharmabiksham
28. Shri Ram Sajivan
29. Shri Surjit Singh Barnala
30. Shri Jai Prakash

Rajya Sabha

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- *32. Shri Sushil Barongpa
33. Shri V. Rajeshwar Rao
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39. Shri Bhagaban Majhi
40. Shri Nilotpal Basu
41. Shri V. Rajan Chellappa
42. Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy
- @43. Shri Joy Nadukkara

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.N. Mishra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Smt. Roli Srivastava — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri G.R. Jeneja — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Smt. Sudesh Luthra — *Under Secretary*
5. Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy — *Assistant Director*

* Nominated *w.e.f.* 5.11.96 *vice* Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi ceased to be Member of the Committee.

@ Ceased to be member of the Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 21.4.97.

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (1996-97) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Urban Development of the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

2. Demands for Grants have been examined by the Committee under Rule 331E(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment (Department of Urban Development) on 3rd April, 1997.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at its sitting held on 20th April, 1997.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Ministry/ Department for placing before them the requisite material in connection with examination of the subject.

6. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry/Department who appeared before the Committee and placed their considered views. They would like to place on record their sense of deep appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
April 21, 1997
Vaisakha 1, 1919 (Saka)

SONTOSH MOHAN DEV,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Urban and Rural
Development.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

The Ministry of Urban Development was renamed as Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and bifurcated into two Departments *viz.*; (1) Department of Urban Development and (2) Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation in March, 1995.

The Department of Urban Development handles the subjects like urban development, water supply and sanitation, urban transport etc. which are primarily State subjects wherein the Central Government plays a catalytic and supportive role by guiding and assisting the State Governments in implementation of policies and programmes through legislative support and financial assistance. There are three attached and four Subordinate Offices under their control. There are also two Public Sector Undertakings and five Statutory/Autonomous Bodies under this Department.

There has been a growth in the population of cities since Independence on account of rapid industrialization, natural growth and migration from rural areas. Cities have; therefore, now become engines of growth in the economy and major contributors to the creation of national wealth. Recognizing the importance of urban development, the Department of Urban Development is in the process of formulating a national urban policy keeping in view the recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanization Strategy listed out in the ESCAP Regional Action Plan on Urbanization adopted in the New Delhi Declaration.

Considering the need to upgrade the environment in cities and towns, this Ministry has elicited five strategy papers in critical areas of urban environment *viz.*, water supply, health and sanitation, solid waste management, urban pollution and institutional strengthening. The studies have been completed by reputed Institutions. The results of these studies will enable Government of India to develop policies and strategies for protection and preservation of the urban environment.

The priorities fixed for different aspects/schemes of urban development by the Department in the current year include:—

- (i) Infrastructural Development in selected Mega Cities.
- (ii) Integrated Development of selected Small and Medium Towns.
- (iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Scheme applicable to towns with less than 20,000 population.
- (iv) Integrated Low Cost Sanitation.
- (v) Amendments to Urban Land Ceiling Act.
- (vi) Amendments to Delhi Rent Control Act.
- (vii) Assisting State Governments in municipal reforms in connection with the implementation of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act.
- (viii) Assisting metropolitan cities including Delhi in connection with project for rail-based mass transport systems.

In the present report, the Committee have restricted its examination to only major issues concerning programmes related to Urban Development, Water Supply & Sanitation, Mega City Scheme, NCR, CPWD, L&DO, Delhi Rent Act, Printing & Stationery in the context of plan budget and Demands for Grants for the ensuing year *i.e.* 1997-98.

CHAPTER II

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS AND PLAN BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1997-98 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT

(Plan Schemes)

Overall Performance	(Rs. in crores)
8th Plan outlay as initially agree to by Planning Commission	819.65
8th Plan Outlay as released	1103.47
Allocation as proposed for 9th Plan	7266.50
Total BE 1996-97	1328.38
Total BE 1997-98	1598.01

2.2 When asked about the reasons for lesser allocation made by the Government for the Department of Urban Development, they in the written note have stated that BE allocations are made at the time of presentation of Budget. A Review meeting is taken under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure) in the Ministry of Finance in which taking into account the progress of expenditure another relevant factors the RE ceilings are fixed. At times, the Ministry of Finance reduces the allocation as corresponding releases have to be made by the State Governments, on ground utilisation is not adequate or proper utilisation certificates have not been sent. In regard to proposed outlay and agreed outlay during 1995-96, the outlay proposed to the Planning Commission for the Plan schemes of this Department was Rs. 811.29 crores. However, the actual allocation agreed to was Rs. 297.15 crores. Proposed allocation denotes the amount considered appropriate for the Ministry. The proposals of this Ministry are discussed in the Planning Commission. Taking into consideration the financial constraints etc. allocation is usually for lesser funds. Generally, there is a wide

gap between the proposals made by this Ministry and the allocations agreed to by the Planning Commission.

2.3 The Secretary, Urban Development during the course of oral evidence stated:

"Both the Central Government and the State Government alike complain about shortage of resources as far providing Budget support is concerned. You would have also kindly observed that generally the pattern is that if we require a sum of Rs. 1000/- then we get only Rs. 10/-. We get just about ten per cent of the money. That is the main problem. What happens in the meanwhile is that by the time we tackle ten per cent of the problem, the size or the extent of the problem grows by twenty per cent and, therefore, we seem to be lagging more and more far behind. In certain sectors we are required to divert more resources and so other sectors lag still far behind. This is the general situation as far as urban development sector is concerned."

The Secretary while submitting resource generation for Urban Development during evidence stated:

"Finally it is the problem of shortage of resources. As I submitted, people in urban areas have to stand on their own feet. Therefore, shortage of resources is more of an artificial kind of thing. Resources can be generated. They will come through taxation and non-tax revenue in the form of tariffs, etc., and taxation in the form of property tax, octroi, etc. by the urban local bodies. Of course, most of the States have abolished octroi now."

2.4 The Committee note that the major area of concern for Urban Development schemes is the scarcity of funds. As submitted by the Secretary, the Department is receiving just around 10 per cent of the proposed allocation for various schemes. It is further observed that as explained by the Department in the written note that the system reporting of utilisation by States is responsible for getting lesser outlay from Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.

2.5 The Committee further observe that as rightly explained by the Secretary during evidence, the thought has to be given to resource generation through other source that Central/State Governments, it may be through taxation and non-tax revenue in the form of tariffs and user charge based urban services.

2.6 It is recommended by the Committee that the Department has to review their monitoring mechanism to get adequate finances from the Finance. There should be some fool proof mechanism to monitor the utilisation of funds. Defaulter States who do not furnish the progress reports or utilisation certificates should be dealt with strongly by the Centre. Then Department have to present a clean picture about proper utilisation of funds so as to get the adequate allocation from the Ministry of Finance.

2.7 The Committee take serious note of the fact that the Department is getting just 10 per cent of the proposed funds for Urban Development Scheme. They would urge that during Ninth Plan sufficient funds should be provided for the infrastructural scheme of the Department.

2.8 It is also recommended by the Committee that State Government should now give a thinking to generate resources through other sources like taxation and non-tax revenue like tariffs and user charge based urban services, keeping in view the scarcity of resources available with the Central Government. Further it is felt that land can be a major resource as has already been recommended by the Committee in their 6th Report on Mega City Scheme. It is urged that endeavour should be made to use lands as a major resource for urban development within the existing laws.

CHAPTER III

SCHEME-WISE ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1997-98

(i) Urban Development

General Pool Accommodation (Residential)

3.1.1 Initial Budget outlay for 8th Plan	Rs. 177.90 crores
Total Final allotment during 8th Plan	Rs. 177.90 crores
Total Expenditure during 8th Plan	Rs. 128.34 crores (upto March 1996)

3.1.2 The category-wise break up for the total number of houses constructed are as given below :

TYPE-I	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	Total
I.	245	450	256	92	72	1115
II.	776	1000	40	128	640	2592
III.	852	972	349	128	180	2481
IV.	134	124	112	112	27	509
V.	24	29	28	—	20	101
VI.	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	2031	2575	785	460	951	6802

Financial and Physical achievement during 1995-96 and 1996-97 and anticipated for 1997-98.

4216 Plan UD

Year	Allocation Rs. crores	Expenditure	Physical achievement (No. of Houses)
95-96	39.00	43.81	460
96-97	41.90	41.78 (Upto Feb. 97)	951 (Anticipated)
97-98	45.00	—	1078 (Proposed)

3.1.3 When enquired about the satisfaction level at various stations the Department in the written note furnished before the Committee that in respect of providing residential accommodation to Government employees, the MOUA&E has been trying to secure as large a provision as possible in the successive 5 years plans. In the 7th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1180 crores (both for GPOA & CPRA) was proposed assuming a satisfaction level of 70% for Delhi and 50% for other stations. But the final allocation in the 7th Plan, (85-90) was only Rs. 134 crores *i.e.* a little more than 10% of the total demand.

3.1.4 For the 8th Plan too, even though a proposal for Rs. 1240 crores was worked out, keeping in view the financial stringency, the actual demand for Rs. 490 crores only (Rs. 390 crores for Residential and Rs. 100 crores for Non-Residential) was made. The Planning Commission, however allotted only Rs. 226.68 crores (Rs. 177.90 crores for Residential and Rs. 48.78 crores for Non-Residential).

3.1.5 Thus it may be seen that finance is a big constraint in the way of providing adequate number of houses for Government employees. As regards have position with reason to Minister and MPs it was stated that in respect of providing houses to Ministers and MPs recently additional accommodation (28 Nos.) was provided for MPs at BKS Marg, New Delhi and another block of 28 Nos. is already in progress at BD Marg, New Delhi. Schemes for adding 3 more such blocks are also on the anvil. The concept plans have been developed and sanction for the same would be given after the bungalows are vacated by the existing allottees and LBZ relaxation obtained.

3.1.6 For Hon'ble Ministers, the existing bungalows are being renovated and allotted as per requirements. A scheme for redevelopment of Lodhi Estate Area is also under consideration, which involves relaxation from the Lutyens Bungalow Zone regulations. Once this relaxation is obtained, the cost estimates for the schemes would be prepared. Under the scheme, it is proposed to construct about 200 TY-VII quarters.

3.1.7 The Committee observe that the number of additional houses constructed has declined if we see the data at Para 3.1 above. Total number of additional accommodation which was 2031 during 1992-93 declined to 785 during 1994-95/460 during 1995-96 and 951

during 1996-97. They note with concern the underspending of the funds allocated for the purpose of General Pool Accommodation. On the one hand the Department has claimed that finances is the big constraint in the way of adequate number of houses for Government accommodation on the other hand total expenditure during the 8th Plan is Rs. 128.34 crores out of the allocated outlay of Rs. 177.90 crores.

3.1.8 It is strongly recommended by the Committee that sufficient funds should be provided by the Government during the 9th Plan to achieve 100% satisfaction of Government accommodation by the desired employees at various stations. Besides it is also stressed that the Department should be ready with the plan to meaningfully utilise the scarce resource allocated to them.

3.1.9 The Committee further urge that sufficient residential accommodation should be made available for MPs and Ministers.

(ii) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) Scheme.

3.2.1 As per Performance Budget 1996-97, IDSMT scheme has been revised and as per the revised guidelines the scheme will be applicable to towns with a population upto 5 lakhs (earlier it was 3 lakhs) where election to the local bodies has been held. IDSMT will not be applicable to towns where PMIUPEP (Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme) is applicable.

8th Plan outlay	Rs. 155 crores
Release during 8th Plan	Rs. 115.52 crores
Allocation proposed during 9th Plan	Rs. 300 crores
Allocation during 1997-98	Rs. 35 (crores)

3.2.2 In the written note it has been stated that based on the reports furnished by the Towns and Country Planning Organisations, as against the release of Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 258.05 crores for 820 towns from inception till 31.3.96, the State Government have spent an amount of Rs. 349.32 crores till 31.3.96.

3.2.3 As per the written information of the Department the number of cities/towns with population between 50,000 and 5 lakhs is 690 as

per the 1991 census, the coverage since inception has been 423. The criterion of coverage under IDSMT is that the city is identified as a regional growth Centre capable of generating economic momentum and employment opportunities by the concerned State Government. The objective is that the development of these growth centres will minimise the incentive of the residents of rural hinterlands and small and medium towns in the catchment area to migrate to large and metropolitan cities.

3.2.4 While explaining the impact of lesser funds the Department in the written note stated that the Department of Urban Development has been suggesting to the Planning Commission for an allocation of Rs. 100 crore per year under the IDSMT scheme. The IDSMT Scheme guidelines were revised in 1995, adopting a whole town approach without distributing funds too thinly between a large number of cities and towns. When the revision of the scheme guidelines was discussed, the Finance Ministry had observed that the revision would be meaningful if funds under the scheme are enhanced. The matter was taken up with the Planning Commission. However due to scarcity of resources, it had not been possible to allocate adequate funds under IDSMT. The Department will not be in a position to meet the requirement of all the eligible cities as per the revised IDSMT Guidelines in the absence of enhanced allocations for the scheme. However, some cities/towns will be covered.

3.2.5 The Committee note with concern the inadequate outlay made by the Department for IDSMT. It is observed that as per the revised guidelines the scheme will be applicable to cities upto 5 lakh instead of 3 lakh as per the earlier guidelines. They find that more cities will be covered by the scheme as per the revised guidelines, but there is no increase in the outlay. Out of 690 cities coming under the purview of the scheme, only 423 cities could be given coverage since inception. As admitted by the Department they will not be in a position to meet the requirement of all the eligible cities. The facts have also been admitted by the Ministry of Finance who viewed that the revision could be meaningful if funds under the scheme are enhanced.

3.2.6 **It is strongly recommended by the Committee that the proposed funds of Rs. 100 crores for 1997-98 and Rs. 300 crore during 9th Plan should be accepted by the Ministry of Finance as the demand is quite reasonable. They would like that the Department**

should again place their fresh proposal before Planning Commission for getting the proposed outlay.

(iii) Mega City Scheme

8th Plan Outlay	Rs. 700.00 crores
Anticipated Expenditure	Rs. 312.40 crores
Projected outlay for 9th Plan	Rs. 600.00 crores

3.3.1 Mega City Scheme is applicable to cities having population more than 4 million. The State Level Sanctioning Committees are competent to approve projects under the scheme. The Scheme financing pattern is 25% Capital Share; 25% State Share and 50% Institutional Finance.

3.3.2 The reduced outlay during the 9th Plan is primarily due to the experience that as against an indication of Rs. 700 crores during the 8th Plan, less than half of the amount of Central assistance could only be made available to the Mega Cities. The reduced allocation reflects the resource constraint.

3.3.3 The statement showing the status of A, B, and C type of projects in five mega cities where the scheme is applicable is given at Annexure I.

3.3.4 So far as the question of Institutional Finance is concerned the Department in their written note have stated that HUDCO is the only financing institution for financing the projects. Further it has been mentioned that since the Finance Minister has announced the creation of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) as a major National Level Institution for the financing of infrastructure with a share capital of Rs. 5000 crores, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has requested the Finance Ministry to create a separate window in the IDFC to support urban infrastructure lending.

3.3.5 The representative, HUDCO during the course of oral evidence put before the Committee the contradictory facts regarding IDFC as below:

I think that your observation about IDFC is right that they are involved only in core infrastructure which will be telecommunication,

power, ports, industrial townships and other areas. The City infrastructure does not come into that particular area.

3.3.6 The cities between population 50 thousand and 5 lakh are covered under the scheme IDSMT, whereas cities having 40 lakh population are covered under Mega City Scheme.

3.3.7 When asked about the Central scheme for population between 5 lakh and 40 lakh the Department stated at present there is no scheme to cover such cities.

3.3.8 The Committee note with concern the continuous reduction in the outlay by the Government. 8th Plan allocation for Rs. 700 crores has been reduced to Rs. 600 crores during 9th Plan. Another notable feature is the argument given by the Department for reduction of outlay that lesser than half of the amount of Central Assistance could be made available to the Mega Cities. The Committee during their on the spot study visit to five Mega Cities have observed that this is the scheme where States have contributed more than the matching contribution. The respective Mega Cities are actually getting lesser amount than the proposed outlay for their specific projects. In view of the position of the implementation as given above, the Committee are not at all satisfied with the argument posed by the Department for the reduction of outlay as half of the funds could actually be released during the 8th Plan. They find that the scheme is a very good start to solve the infrastructure problem of Mega Cities and should be continued during 9th Plan.

3.3.9 It is further noted by the Committee with regret the contradictory position as explained by Secretary as given in the written note too and representative of HUDCO regarding the mandate of IDFC. They note that IDFC has nothing to do with financing the urban infrastructure projects. They would like that Department should recheck the position and explain the position before the Committee. They find that HUDCO is the only agency to refinance the infrastructure projects. HUDCO is primarily dependent on the market borrowings and concerned operation for resource generation. They note that there are two options available with the Government: (i) to create a refinancing agency on the line with NABARD for rural sector; and (ii) procure ways and means to finance the HUDCO itself so that the infrastructural projects could be refinanced at the lower rate of interest.

3.3.10 It is further observed by the Committee that at present there is no scheme to cover the cities between 5 lakh and 40 lakh population. They feel that it is really unjust for such cities which are not covered by any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructural development. It is strongly recommended that Govt. should reconsider to provide some scheme for such not covered cities.

(iv) Urban Mapping Scheme

3.4.1 The data with regard to the actual expenditure incurred for the 8th Plan period for the 25 ongoing towns against the total target of covering 50 towns as given by the Department:

Period	Amount received	Expenditure
1992-93	112.00	—
1993-94	281.00	110.28
1994-95	215.00	170.23
1995-96	—	0.54
1996-97	100.00	109.96
Total	708.00	391.01

3.4.2 The remaining 25 towns require Rs. 6.30 crores for paying to National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) for taking up aerial photography excluding Rs. 1.5 crores for data conversion, equipment, training, personnel, contingencies, etc.

3.4.3 It has been stated in the written note that as per 1991 Census there are 4615 cities and towns in India. It is estimated that there are 880 cities and towns which have Master Plans. Therefore it can be presumed that at least for these towns, base map exists. However for most of these towns base maps are outdated and these base maps are also not on large scale. Thus, there is need to prepare (revised) upto date base maps.

3.4.4 The Committee note with regret that out of 4615 cities in the country as per 1991 census only 880 cities and towns have master plans and it could be presumed that such cities have the base maps. They are distressed to note that out of Rs. 708 lakh as released

during 8th Plan only Rs. 391.01 lakhs could be spent on the scheme. Notwithstanding the updated maps lesser than 20% towns have base maps. This speaks volume of the inadequate attention paid to urban planning. They note that urban maps not only reflect the history of that town/city but are a necessary document to prepare master-plans and perspective plans.

3.4.5 It is strongly recommended that Govt. should think over to launch a movement to have the updated base maps of each city/town in the country as this is prerequisite for planning. Further they urge that an action plan of 5 to 10 years should be prepared to have each city/town a updated base map. To achieve this objective the outlay should be provided adequately during 9th Plan.

3.4.6 Urban Land records should be computerised so as to maintain the correct updated maps. To achieve the objectives it is urged that Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records should be launched in line with the similar schemes of Rural Development.

(v) Delhi Rent Act

3.5.1 The Delhi Rent Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Bill was assented to by the President on 23.8.1995 and published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section I, dated 23.8.95 as Act No. 33 of 1995. The Committee have been informed that various representations for making changes in certain provisions of the Act have been received by the Government. An all party, Committee has been set up to suggest changes in the Act. Certain amendments suggested in the final note are under submission for approval.

3.5.2 More than 1 year and 8 months have elapsed since Delhi Rent Act, 1995 assented to by the President. Till date the Act has not been notified by the Government to be implemented. The Committee note with concern the way the Government is dealing with the said Act and recommend the same should be notified without any further delay.

(vi) National Capital Region (NCR)

8th Plan outlay	Rs. 20 crores
Outlay as budgetted during 8th Plan	Rs. 135 crores
.. Proposed outlay during 9th Plan	Rs. 400.00 crores

3.6.1 However, as against the available budgetary support of Rs. 135.00 crores, the Board has spent approx. Rs. 302 crores during the 8th Plan as its share for implementing the various Regional Plan projects. The plan expenditure over and above the budgetary support of Rs. 135 crores released to the Board is out of its internal accruals and line of credit through HUDCO.

3.6.2 When asked about the justification for demanding double of outlay during the 9th Plan as compared to 8th Plan the Department in the written note stated that as pointed out in the foregoing para, the expenditure during the 8th Plan has not been less, rather it (Rs. 302 crores) has been more than twice the actual releases (of Rs. 135 crores) has been more than twice the actual releases (of Rs. 135 crores) made by the Government as budgetary support. Moreover, the progress of expenditure progressively picked up during the last 3 years of the 8th Plan *i.e.* 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97. During this period, it has approved Schemes of over Rs. 1195 crores and has released approx. Rs. 278 crores. The remaining amount has to be met by the States/Implementing Agencies and also by the NCRPB in the next few years.

3.6.3 In addition, the Board still has schemes of about Rs. 350 crores in the pipelines for which they have to release about Rs. 250 crores. The total loan liability of the Board in respect of the ongoing, sanctioned and the schemes in the pipelines is of the order of approximately Rs. 605 crores. In addition, the participating States are expected to draw up a number of new schemes during the 9th Plan, for which substantial additional outlay will be required. Keeping all these factors in view the Board had requested for a budgetary support of Rs. 800 crores for the 9th Plan and it is proposed that the additional funds required could be raised through extra budgetary resources and out of its own accruals.

3.6.4 On a query regarding the data for the deflection of slum population from Delhi, the Department in the written note have stated that there is no specific data available regarding the deflection of slum population from Delhi. However, the decadal rate of growth of population in NCT Delhi has decreased from 53% during 1971—81 decade to 51.5% during 1981—91 decade. As regards future targets, the Department stated that the regional plan has proposed the deflection of two million population in ten years period ending 2001.

3.6.5 To contain the population of Delhi to 112 lakhs by 2001 A.D., 20 lakh people are to be deflected from NCT, Delhi to the 10 priority towns/complexes, through a process of induced development of new

townships which are centres around core economic activities, and designed to absorb the additional population assigned to the respective priority towns.

3.6.6 Details of Schemes sanctioned during 1994—97 as submitted by the department in the written note is as below :—

Total project cost of schemes	Rs. 1194.63 crores
State Contribution at Project level	Rs. 531.63 crores
Urban component to be provided by NCRPB	Rs. 663 crores
Loan released upto 31.3.97	Rs. 278 crores
Loan liability carried forward to the 9th Plan	Rs. 355 crores

3.6.7 The Committee during the course of oral evidence expressed their apprehension with regard to explosion of slum population in big cities:

“Slums are growing in all the Mega Cities. They are growing like anything now even in smaller towns. In cities like Delhi, most of the people are still living in slums and slums are growing day by day. There is an apprehension that some day the slums might take over the towns.”

3.6.8 It is noticed by the Committee that Government have not given serious attention to solve the problem of slums in big cities. It is really surprising to note that the Department have not maintained the specific data with regard to deflection of slum population in Delhi whereas on the other hand they have the target of deflect 20 lakh people by 2001 AD. They are at a loss to understand how the Department could conclude that the decadal rate of growth of population has decreased for 53% during 1971—81 to during 51.5% 1981—91 without maintaining the proper data. They recommend that Government should maintain the specific data for each of the city to know the magnitude of slum population.

3.6.9 It is further observed that there are two solutions to solve the problem of slum in the country—long term and short term. The long term solution is that Government should think of constructing

multiple accommodation for slum dwellers at a specified place allocated by the Government to rehabilitate them. To achieve the objective there is the need for a proper planning. The slum dwellers are not only living in hazardous condition but they are a threat to the other population living in these cities by making them prone to hazardous condition. As such the short term approaches to improve the Sanitation condition in Slums by providing proper sewage facility. No doubt availability of land and funds are the main things to solve the problem of slum population. It is high time for the Government to have some long term strategy to solve the slum problem of the big cities. It is recommended strongly that sufficient funds should be provided by Central/States Governments to solve this problem and an action plan should be chalked out to deflect the slum population for such cities within a specified span of time.

(vii) Urban Transport

3.7.1	Outlay for 8th Plan	Rs. 4.60 crores
	Actual expenditure during the 8th Plan	Rs. 73.78 crores
	Outlay for 9th Plan (Proposed)	Rs. 956.00 crores
	Pass through assistance for Delhi MRTS	Rs. 2900.00 crores
	Outlay 1996-97	Rs. 59.00 crores
	Outlay 1997-98	Rs. 154.20 crores

3.7.2 When asked about the details alongwith strategy of the Government during the 9th Plan the Department in the written note stated that for the city of Delhi Rs. 11.70 crores have been released for detailed project report with regard to Delhi MRTS project and Rs. 52.80 crores for equity; for Calcutta Rs. 26 lakhs have been released for carrying out feasibility studies; for Bangalore Rs. 18.34 lakhs have been released for feasibility studies; for Chennai Rs. 6.05 lakhs have been released for feasibility studies and for Hyderabad Rs. 10 lakhs have been released for feasibility studies and Rs. 7.15 crores for equity during the 8th Plan period.

3.7.3 Strategy of the Government during 9th Plan to meet challenges of Urban Transport in Metropolitan cities : (i) augmentation of city bus fleets; (ii) land use transport integration; (iii) setting up a “National Urban Transport Development Funds” at the city level to finance urban transport projects (iv) encouraging private sector involvement in construction of toll based urban bye-passes, arterial roads and implementation of Mass Rapid Transit systems (v) setting up Directorate of urban transport in States having million plus cities (vi) human resource development for training and research in the field of Urban Transport and (vii) provision of a much higher level of financial support for urban transport projects (specially rail based mass transit systems) by both Central and State Governments.

3.7.4 The Committee note the laudable objective as emphasised in the strategy of the Government during the 9th Plan as given in Para 3.7.3 above and would like that all out efforts should be made to achieve the objectives.

CHAPTER IV

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION

(i) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

4.1.1 AUWSP is a scheme meant for solving the problems of towns having population lesser than 20,000 as per 1991 census.

8th, Plan allocation	Rs. 50 crores
Total Release during 8th Plan	Rs. 68.75 crores
Total expenditure reported	Rs. 68.49 crores
Allocation proposed during 9th Plan	Rs. 3596.00 crores
Allocation during 1997-98	Rs. 28 crores

4.1.2 When asked about the rationale of demanding such a big outlay of Rs. 3596 crores during the 9th Plan the Department in the written note stated that in the Chief Ministers Conference held in July, 1996, it was resolved that the scheme of AUWSP should be extended to towns having population up to one lakh and all urban areas should be covered with the provision of drinking water by 20,000. Proposal in this regard were accordingly sent to the Planning Commission for approval.

4.1.3 As per the proposal sent to the Planning Commission, towns having population up to 20,000 may continue to be funded in the ratio of 50:50 by the Centre and the State. For towns having population between 20,001 to 50,000 financing pattern of 40:40:20 (Central : State: Loan Assistance) has been proposed whereas for towns having population between 50,001 to 1 lakhs, 1 financing pattern of 25:25:50 (Central : State : Loan Assistance) has been proposed.

4.1.4 The extended AUWS Programme as proposed would cover all towns (3466) below population of 1 lakh as per 1991 census and would benefit an estimated population of 82.67 million (39.82 million and 42.85 million with new and augmentation facilities respectively).

4.1.5 It has been estimated that a provision of Rs. 3596 crores in the Central Plan will be required to implement the scheme. Accordingly, a proposal has been made by the Ministry to the Planning Commission.

4.1.6 When asked about the status of Water Supply and Sanitation and coverage of population by safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities in urban areas the Department in the written note stated that based on the information furnished by the State PHE Departments, Water Boards, Metro Boards and Urban Local Bodies, it has been assessed that about 84.32% of the urban population *i.e.* 192.92 million out of the 228.77 million estimated population has been provided with safe drinking water supply facilities and 50.25% *i.e.*, 1148.98 million people have been provided with sewerage and sanitation facilities in the country as of 3rd March, 1993.

4.1.7 The Department has claimed that about 84.52% of the urban population have access to safe drinking water. The Committee expressed their reservation about the 84% claim of the Government and observed that the ground reality is something different. The Committee during their on the spot study visit to West Bengal and some of the North Eastern States have found that there is lack of water supply in the cities and towns covered by ARWSP. For instance Baganpalli of Assam and the tour of Hailakundi are yet to get water supply. The reason for this has been attributed as lack of funds by the local administration. It is desired that Government should reconsider and revise the data based on the actual position in the grass root level and explain the position before the Committee.

4.1.8 In the Chief Ministers Conference the laudable objective of providing drinking water to all urban areas by 2000 AD have been resolved. The Committee appreciate the objective expressed in the Chief Minister's Conference and would like that Centre/State Governments should prepare the action plan to provide safe drinking water to each and every urban town/plan. To achieve the objective they recommend that sufficient outlay should be provided by the Government.

4.1.9 The Committee also note that the maintenance of assets under the programme is the major area of concern. It is recommended that the responsibility of maintenance should be of Municipality. More stress should be given to maintenance as there will be no use of creating assets if adequate maintenance is not provided.

(ii) Liberation of Scavengers

4.2.1 8th Plan outlay	Rs. 150 crores
Total allocation released during the 8th Plan	Rs. 114.92 crores
9th Plan proposed outlay	Rs. 300.00 crores
Allocation during 1996-97	Rs. 28 crores
Released made	Rs. 13.80 crores
Allocation during 1997-98	Rs. 28 crores

4.2.2 As regards the status of the scheme the Department in the written note stated.

4.2.3 So far 738 schemes have been sanctioned under the programme which on completion will help liberate 3,309,957 scavengers. The matter regarding rehabilitation of scavengers is being looked after by the Ministry of Welfare. The main components of the scheme are training of scavengers and their dependents and their rehabilitation through implementation of projects.

4.2.4 The Committee would like that during the 9th Plan sufficient funds should be provided for liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers.

CHAPTER V

PUBLIC WORKS

5.1 General Pool Accommodation Non-Residential

Year	Outlay (Rs. crores)	Expenditure	Achievements (SQM)
92-93	4.79	13.04	—
93-94	9.75	17.20	12347
94-95	9.15	16.26	58172
95-96	12.59	20.66	30479
96-97	12.50	10.01	—
(Upto Feb., 1997)			
Total 8th Plan	48.78	77.17	100998
9th Plan	250 (Proposed)		301073
97-98	20		22694 (target)

5.2 The demand and availability of office accommodation in a few major cities as given in the written note of the Department is as below :

	Demand	Availability	Shortage
Delhi	9.21	6.02	3.19
Bombay	1.73	0.62	1.12
Calcutta	3.47	2.12	1.35
Madras	1.55	1.47	0.08

	Demand	Availability	Shortage
Nagpur	0.37	0.25	0.12
Shimla	0.33	0.26	0.08
Faridabad	0.24	0.17	0.07
Hyderabad	3.10	0.25	2.85
Bangalore	1.86	1.03	0.83

Note : All figures are in lakhs Sqm.

5.3 The Department in the written note replied that the attempt of this Ministry has been to construct as much of office accommodation as possible over the years. However, as explained elsewhere, the non-availability of adequate funds has been the major constraint. In the 8th Plan with a total expenditure of approximate Rs. 80 crores, we have added 100,998 Sqm. of office accommodation. In the 9th Plan, our target is to add 301073 sq.m. of accommodation provided out demand of Rs. 250 crores is agreed to, by the Planning Commission.

5.4 The Committee note that there is considerable shortage of office accommodation in all the big stations in the country. It is recommended that sufficient funds should be provided for construction of General Pool Accommodation (Non-residential) so as to contain the funds spent for having private accommodation.

CHAPTER VI
STATIONERY & PRINTING

Directorate of Printing

Year	Budget Estimates		Actual	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
	(Rs. in crores)		(Rs. in crores)	
1995-96	2.5	144.09	1.49	94.14
1996-97	.50	152.20	.47	87.16
				(upto Jan., 1997)

6.2 When asked about the status of Government of India the Department in the written note stated that out of the 21 units, two units *i.e.* Forms Unit Santragachi and Shimla are slated for closure and modernisation of one more unit *i.e.* Publication Unit, Santragachi is related with the closure issue. Out of the remaining two units one unit is being phased out at Delhi Minto Road and only one unit *i.e.* Government of India Press, Gangtok is a very small unit having only three printing machines. Government of India Press, Mayapuri, which was earlier a letter press unit is now under modernisation and functioning as partly modernised unit, all other Presses *i.e.* remaining 15 Government of India Presses are either fully modernised or partly modernised.

6.3 The staff in the Presses are also being trained in a phased manner either in-plant or at manufacturer's end/at the training institute of Delhi Printers Association. The staff is also trained at our training centre at Faridabad.

6.4 Modernisation of Government of India Press, Mayapuri which was taken up under the 8th Five Year Plan will be completed by the end of financial year 1997-98. Part modernisation of Government of India Press, Rashtrapati Bhawan was completed and the machinery and equipment are fully functional now. A part modernisation scheme

was prepared for Government of India Press, LPU, Faridabad and the Ministry has already approved the SFC preliminary work related to site selection procurement of machinery and equipment and redevelopment of staff etc. are being examined. This work will be taken up under non-plan during the next financial year.

6.5 Further modernisation of Government of India Presses will depend upon the following factors :—

1. Cabinet decision on closure of the some of the Presses.
2. Assurance of enough work from all Government ministries/ depts.
3. Availability of fund under the 9th Plan period or under non-plan schemes.

6.6 The data with regard to the amount spent on private printing during the 8th Plan year-wise is as below :

Year	Amt. incurred by Dte. of Ptg. (Rupees in Lakhs)	Amt. incurred by various Min./Dept. (Rupees in Lakhs)
1992-93	27.43	—
1993-94	34.89	4.60
1994-95	12.04	36.57
1995-96	11.00	26.28
1996-97	4.00 (approx.)	64.09

6.7 The Secretary during the course of oral evidence place before the Committee as below :

	<i>Percentage</i>
Minto Road Letter Press	32
Minto Road Photolytic	24
Ring Road	25

Nilokheri, Haryana	40
Gangtok	72
Bhubaneshwar	46
Koraput	48
Santragachi Publication Unit	20
Former Unit	40
Temple Street, Calcutta	48
Aligarh Postal Press	31
Chandigarh	63
Coimbatore	54
Faridabad Letter Press	58
Nasik	44

6.8 The amount incurred by various Ministries/Departments on private is increasing year by year. The Committee take serious note of its and also observe with constraint that in most of the presses the percentage capacity utilisation is very low. In three presses it is only upto 20%. It is recommended that all out efforts should be made to utilise the press to their optimal capacity and the funds incurred by Departments/Ministries on private printing should be curtailed.

NEW DELHI;
 April 21, 1997

 Vaisakha 1, 1919 (Saka)

SONTOSH MOHAN DEV,
 Chairman,
 Standing Committee on Urban and Rural
 Development.

**PHYSICAL PROGRESS UNDER MEGA-CITY SCHEME
AS ON 31.3.1997**

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Mega City	No. of Projects Approved	Total cost of Approved Projects	No. of Projects in Progress	No. of Projects Completed	Total Expend. incurred
1	2	3	4	5	6
MUMBAI					
Cat. "A"	06		04		
Cat. "B"	06		05		
Cat. "C"	10		05		
Total	22	266.00	14	—	163.26 (upto 12/96)
CALCUTTA					
Cat. "A"	04		02		
Cat. "B"	47		47		
Cat. "C"	05		04		
Total	56	334.50	53	—	106.07 (upto 12/96)
CHENNAI					
Cat. "A"	20		01	06	
Cat. "B"	06		04	00	
Cat. "C"	26		01	05	
Total	52	327.66	6	11	62.60 (upto 2/97)
HYDERABAD					
Cat. "A"	06		01		
Cat. "B"	02		02		
Cat. "C"	06		04		
Total	14	251.17	7	—	55.88 (upto 12/96)

1	2	3	4	5	6
B'LORE					
Cat. "A"	03		02		
Cat. "B"	11		04		
Cat. "C"	06		03		
Total	20	260.23	9	—	35.76
					(upto 2/97)
TOTAL					
Cat. "A"	39		10	06	
Cat. "B"	72		62	00	
Cat. "C"	53		17	05	
GRAND TOTAL	164	1439.66	89	11	423.57

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para No.	Recommendation
1	2	3
1.	2.4	The Committee note that the major area of concern for Urban Development schemes is the scarcity of funds. As submitted by the Secretary, the Department is receiving just around 10 per cent of the proposed allocation for various schemes. It is further observed that as explained by the Department in the written note that the system reporting of utilisation by States is responsible for getting lesser outlay from Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.
2.	2.5	The Committee further observe that as rightly explained by the Secretary during evidence, the thought has to be given to resource generation through other source that Central/State Governments, it may be through taxation and non-tax revenue in the form of tariffs etc.
3.	2.6	It is recommended by the Committee that the Department has to review their monitoring mechanism to get adequate finances from the finance. There should be some fool proof mechanism to monitor the utilisation of funds. Defaulter States who do not furnish the progress reports or utilisation certificates should be dealt with strongly by the Centre. The Department have to present a clean picture about proper utilisation of funds so as to get the adequate allocation from the Ministry of Finance.

1	2	3
4.	2.7	The Committee take serious note of the fact that the Department is getting just 10 per cent of the proposed funds for Urban Development Scheme. They would urge that during Ninth Plan sufficient funds should be provided for the infrastructural scheme of the Department.
5.	2.8	It is also recommended by the Committee that State Government should now give a thinking to generate resources through other sources like taxation and non-tax revenue like tariffs etc. keeping in view the scarcity of resources available with the Central Government.
6.	3.1.7	The Committee observe that the number of additional houses constructed has declined if we see the data at Para 3.1 above. Total number of additional accommodation which was 2031 during 1992-93 declined to 785 during 1994-95/460 during 1995-96 and 951 during 1996-97. They note with concern the underspending of the funds allocated for the purpose of General Pool accommodation. On the one hand the Department has claimed that finances is the big constraint in the way of adequate number of houses for Government accommodation on the other hand total expenditure during the Eighth Plan is Rs. 128.34 crores out of the allocated outlay of Rs. 177.90 crores.
7.	3.1.8	It is strongly recommended by the Committee that sufficient funds should be provided by the Government during the Ninth Plan to achieve 100% satisfaction of Government accommodation by the desired employees at various stations. Besides it is also stressed that

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the Department should be ready with the plan to meaningfully utilise the scarce resource allocated to them.

8. 3.1.9 The Committee further urge that sufficient residential accommodation should be made available for MPs and Ministers.
9. 3.2.5 The Committee note with concern the inadequate outlay made by the Department for IDSMT. It is observe that as per the revised guidelines the scheme will be applicable to cities upto 5 lakh instead of 3 lakh as per the earlier guidelines. They find that more cities will be covered by the Scheme as per the revised guidelines, but there is no increase in the outlay. Out of 690 cities coming under the purview of the scheme, only 423 cities could be given coverage since inception. As admitted by the Department they will not be in a position to meet the requirement of all the eligible cities. The facts have also been admitted by the Ministry of Finance who viewed that the revision could be meaningful if funds under the scheme are enhance.
10. 3.2.6 It is strongly recommended by the Committee that the proposed funds of Rs. 100 crores for 1997-98 and Rs. 300 crores during Ninth Plan should be accepted by the Ministry of Finance as the demand is quite reasonable. They would like that the Department should again place their fresh proposal before Planning Commission for getting the proposed outlay.

1	2	3
	Eighth Plan Outlay	Rs. 700.00 crores
	Anticipated expenditure	Rs. 312.40 crores
	Projected outlay for Ninth Plan	Rs. 600.00 crores
11.	3.3.1	Mega City Scheme is applicable to cities having population more than 4 million. The State Level Sanctioning Committees are competent to approve projects under the scheme. The Scheme financing pattern is 25% capital share; 25% State share and 50% Institutional finance.
12.	3.3.8	The Committee note with concern the continuous reduction in the outlay by the Government. Eighth Plan allocation for Rs. 700 crores has been reduced to Rs. 600 crores during Ninth Plan. Another notable feature is the argument given by the Department for reduction of outlay that lesser than half of the amount of Central Assistance could be made available to the Mega Cities. The Committee during their on the spot study visit to five Mega Cities have observed that this is the scheme where States have contributed more than the matching contribution. The respective Mega Cities are actually getting lesser amount than the proposed outlay for their specific projects. In view of the position of the implementation as given above, the Committee are not at all satisfied with the argument posed by the Department for the reduction of outlay as half of the funds could actually be released during the Eighth Plan. They find that the scheme is a very good start to solve the infrastructure problem of mega cities and should be continued during Ninth Plan.

1	2	3
13.	3.3.9	It is further noted by the Committee with regret the contradictory position as explained by Secretary as given in the written note too and representative of HUDCO regarding the mandate of IDFC. They note that IDFC has nothing to do with financing the urban infrastructure projects. They would like that Department should recheck the position and explain the position before the Committee. They find that HUDCO is the only agency to refinance the infrastructure projects. HUDCO is primarily dependent on the market borrowings and concerned operation for resource generation. They note that there are two options available with the Government (i) to create a refinancing agency on the line with NABARD for rural sector; and (ii) procure ways and means to finance the HUDCO itself so that the infrastructural projects could be refinanced at the lower rate of interest.
14.	3.3.10	It is further observed by the Committee that at present there is no scheme to cover the cities between 5 lakh and 40 lakh population. They feel that it is really unjust for such cities which are not covered by any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructural development. It is strongly recommended that Government should reconsider to provide some scheme for such not covered cities.
15.	3.4.4	The Committee note with regret that out of 4615 cities in the country as per 1991 census only 880 cities and towns have master plans and it could be presumed that such cities have the base maps. They are distressed to note that out of Rs. 708 lakh as released during 8h plan only Rs. 391.01 lakhs could be spent on the

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scheme. Notwithstanding the updated maps, lesser than 20% towns have been maps. This speaks volume of the inadequate attention paid to urban planning. They note that urban maps not only reflect the history of that town/city but are a necessary document to prepare master-plans and perspective plans.

16. 3.4.5

It is strongly recommended that Government should think over to launch a movement to have the updated base maps of each city/town in the country as this is prerequisite for planning. Further they urge that an action plan of 5 to 10 years should be prepared to have each city/town a updated base map. To achieve this objective the outlay should be provided adequately during 9th plan.

17. 3.4.6

Urban Land records should be computerised so as to maintain the correct updated maps. To achieve the objectives it is urged that Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records should be launched in line with the similar schemes of Rural Development.

18. 3.5.2

More than 1 year and 8 months have elapsed since Delhi Rent Act, 95 was assented to by the President. Till date the Act has not been notified by the Government to be implemented. The Committee note with concern the way the Government is dealing with the said Act and recommend the same should be notified without any further delay.

19. 3.6.7

The Committee during the course of oral evidence expressed their apprehension with regard to explosion of slum population in big cities :

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“Slums are growing in all the Mega Cities. They are growing like anything now even in smaller towns. In cities like Delhi, most of the people are still living in slums and slums are growing day by day. There is an apprehension that some day the slums might take over the towns.”

20. 3.6.8

It is noticed by the Committee that Government have not given serious attention to solve the problem of slums in big cities. It is really surprising to note that the Department have not mentioned the specific data with regard to defection of slum population in Delhi whereas on the other hand they have the target of deflect 20 lakh people by 2001 AD. They are at a loss to understand how the Department could conclude that the decadal rate of growth of population has decreased for 53% during 1971-81 to 51.5% during 1981-91 without maintaining the proper data. They recommend that Government should mention the specific data for each of the city to know the magnitude of slum population.

21. 3.6.9

It is further observed that there are two solutions to solve the problem of slum in the country—long term and short term. The long term solution is that Government should think of constructing multiple accommodation for slum dwellers at a specified place allocated by the Government to rehabilitate them. To achieve the objective there is the need for a proper planning. The slum dwellers are not only living in hazardous condition but they are a threat to the other population living in these cities by making them prone to hazardous condition as such the short term approaches to improve the sanitation condition

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in slums by providing proper sewage facility. No doubt availability of land and funds are the main things to solve the problem of slum population. It is high time for the Government to have some long term strategy to solve the slum problem of the big cities. It is recommended strongly that sufficient funds should be provided by Central/State Governments to solve this problem and an action plan chalked out to deflect the slum population for such cities within a specified span of time.

22. 3.7.4 The Committee note the laudable objective as emphasised in the strategy of the Government during the 9th Plan as given in Para 3.7.3 above and would like that all out efforts should be made to achieve the objectives.
23. 4.1.7 The Department has claimed that about 84.52% of the urban population have access to safe drinking water. The Committee expressed their reservation about the 84% claim of the Government and observed that the ground reality is something different. The Committee during their on the spot study visit to West Bengal and some of the North eastern States have found that there is lack of water supply in the cities and towns covered by ARWSP. For instance Baganpalli of Assam and the tour of Hailakundi are yet to get water supply. The reason for this has been attributed as lack of funds by the local administration. It is desired that Government should reconsider and revise the data based on the actual position in the grass root level and explain the position before the Committee.
24. 4.1.8 In the Chief Ministers' Conference the laudable objective of providing drinking water to all urban areas by 2000 AD have been resolved.
- ..
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1	2	3
		<p>The Committee appreciate the objective expressed in the Chief Ministers' Conference and would like that Centre/State Governments should prepare the action plan to provide safe drinking water to each and every urban town/plan. To achieve the objective they recommend that sufficient outlay should be provided by the Government.</p>
25.	4.1.9	<p>The Committee also note that the maintenance of assets under the programme is the major area of concern. It is recommended that the responsibility of maintenance should be of Municipality. More stress should be given to maintenance as there will be no use of creating assets if adequate maintenance is not provided.</p>
26.	4.2.4	<p>The Committee would like that during the 9th Plan sufficient funds should be provided for liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers.</p>
27.	5.4	<p>The Committee note that there is considerable shortage of office accommodation in all the big stations in the country. It is recommended that sufficient funds should be provided for construction of General Pool Accommodation (Non-residential) so as to contain the funds spent for having private accommodation.</p>
