

14

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(1998-99)**

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(1997-98)**

FOURTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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Corrigenda to the 14th Report (12th Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development on
'Demands for Grants 1997-1998' of Department of
Urban Development

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FOURTEENTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(1998-99)

(TWELFTH LOK SABHA)

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—1997-98

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained
in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on
Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha)]*

Presented to Lok Sabha on 26th February, 1999
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 1999



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1998-99)

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1. Shri G.C. Malhotra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri S.C. Rastogi — *Director*
3. Smt. Sudesh Luthra — *Under Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the 14th Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Urban Development of the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1997. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 1st April, 1998.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 9th February, 1999.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
February 24, 1999

Phalgun 5, 1920 (Saka)

KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Urban & Rural Development.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development (1998-99) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Urban Development of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1997.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 27 recommendations which have been categorised as follows :—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government:

Sl. Nos. 2.8, 3.1.7, 3.1.9, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.3.8, 3.3.9, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.6.9, 3.7.3, 3.7.4, 4.1.8, 4.1.9, 4.2.4 and 6.8.

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue:

Sl. Nos. 3.1.8, 3.6.8 and 5.4

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Sl. Nos. 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and 3.3.10

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :

Sl. Nos. 3.5.2 and 4.1.7

3. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Allocation of funds for Centrally Sponsored Urban Development Schemes

Recommendation (Sl. Nos. 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7)

4. On the issue of allocation of funds for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes the recommendations of the Committee at Sl. Nos. 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 and the action taken replies as furnished by the Government are as reproduced below :

“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 of reporting of utilisation by States is responsible for getting lesser outlay from the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.”

(Sl. No. 2.4)

“The Planning Commission nationally indicated an outlay of Rs. 700 crore for the Mega City Scheme for 8th Plan period. However, funds to the tune of Rs. 290 crore were provided by the Planning Commission during 1993-97. For 9th Plan period the Ministry has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 600 crore under Mega City Scheme to overcome the resource constraint. The final allocation is yet to be communicated by the Planning Commission.

Under Mega City Scheme, the funds are released directly to the nodal agencies and not to the State Governments.”

(ATR)

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

(Sl. No. 2.5)

“Under the Mega City Scheme, package of remunerative, non-remunerative and user charge based projects are taken up for implementation in such a manner that the project basket as a whole is financially viable. The Mega City Scheme guidelines provided for adopting direct and indirect methods of raising resources by imposition of special levies, user charges, special taxes on the facilities used by the consumers by creation of infrastructure facilities so that the viability of the scheme could be maintained.”

(ATR)

“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.”

(Sl. No. 2.6)

“Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment hold meetings to review the implementation of the Mega City Scheme at regular interval. Further, the State Level Project Sanctioning Committee Meetings are held by Nodal Agencies regularly for monitoring and reviewing the progress of project being implemented under Mega City Scheme. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment insist on utilisation of funds, released earlier, by the nodal agencies to be eligible for release of further Central assistance under Mega City Scheme.”

(ATR)

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

(Sl. No. 2.7)

“As against a notionally indicated outlay of Rs. 700 crores for the Mega City Scheme for 8th Plan period, the Planning Commission provided a sum of Rs. 290 crore. Therefore, the Ministry has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 600 crore under Mega City Scheme for the 9th Plan period to meet the increasing demand for funds for providing basic infrastructure facilities in the Mega Cities. The final allocation is yet to be intimated by the Planning Commission.”

(ATR)

5. The Committee note that though the recommendations made by them in their 11th Report (1997-98) at Sl. Nos. 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 & 2.7 dealt with the issue of allocation of adequate funds for the different Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in the States/UTs, however the Government have replied only with regard to Mega City Scheme. They take serious note of the way the Government have taken their recommendations. They would like that action taken replies with regard to all the remaining Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be furnished for the consideration of the Committee.

B. Launching of some new infrastructural Schemes for uncovered cities

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3.3.10)

6. The Committee recommended as below :—

“At present there is no scheme to cover the cities between 5 lakh and 40 lakh population. The Committee 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 consider to provide some scheme for such not covered cities.”

7. The Ministry in their Action taken reply have stated as below :—

“The matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission and the Commission has ruled that it is not feasible to introduce/ formulate a new scheme in view of the severe constraints on the domestic budget support.”

8. The Committee feel that it is not justified to deny Centrally Sponsored Schemes for infrastructural development to cities/towns which neither qualify to be called as small or medium town due to size of their population nor are eligible to receive Central Government's Assistance under Megacity Scheme. They would like that the Government should reconsider the issue and take up the matter again with the Planning Commission. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Government in this regard.

C. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.1.7)

9. The Committee recommended as under :

“The Department has claimed that about 84.57% 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 AUWSP. For instance Baganpalli and Hailakundi of Assam 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 at the grass root level and explain the position before the Committee.”

10. The Department in their Action taken reply have stated:

“This Ministry has so far not received any proposal for assistance under AUWSP for Baganpalli. Hailakundi has population more than 20,000 and therefore, does not qualify for assistance under AUWSP.

As per the directions of the Standing Committee formats for collecting data for availability of water have already been sent to State Govts./UTs. So far information has been received only from 16 States/UTs. It will be possible to give correct information only after compilation of information in respect of all the State Govts. which is still awaited.”

11. The Committee hope that the data regarding availability of drinking water, as per revised proforma, might have been received from all the States/UTs by now. They will like to be apprised of the latest and correct position of availability of drinking water in all States/UTs.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATION THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 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 had already been recommended by the Committee in their 6th Report on Mega City Scheme. It is agreed that endeavour should be made to use land as a major resource for urban development within the existing laws.

Reply of the Government

The Mega City Scheme guidelines provide for adoption of direct and indirect methods of raising resources by imposition of special levies, user charges, special taxes on the facilities used by the consumers by creation of infrastructure facilities so that the viability of the scheme could be maintained. Further the State Governments have been asked to exploit the potential of urban land as an important instrument to finance urban infrastructure. The funds so generated by State Governments can be dedicated into a State/City level Urban Development Fund to finance Infrastructure development project in accordance with the Development/Master Plans.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/3/97-Bt., dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 Deptt. has claimed that finance 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.

Reply of the Government

Construction of houses for General Pool Accommodation is taken up by CPWD after getting the Administrative Approval & Expenditure Sanction on a scheme-to-scheme basis. These sanctions are accorded by Min. of U.A. & E., (after taking clearance from EFC where necessary) depending upon the availability of funds. A comparatively large number of quarters were completed during the first couple of years of the 8th Plan, because we were engaged in completing the works which had commenced during the previous plan period. However, during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94, the number of sanctions issued by the Ministry of Urban Affairs has been very meagre due to paucity of funds which explains why the number of quarters completed in 1994-95 and 1995-96 has dropped down. From the year 1994-95 onwards however, there has been a marked increase in the number of sanctions and therefore, there is likely to be an increase in the number of quarters getting completed year after year from 1996-97 onwards. During the year 1997-98, for example, we hope to complete 1078 qrs.

In respect of utilisation of funds during 8th Plan, it is intimated that we have spent an amount of Rs. 175.88 crores against the allocation of Rs. 177.90 crores. The figures of Rs. 128.34 crores indicated by the Committee does not include the expenditure for 1996-97 which is Rs. 47.54 crores, bringing up the total expenditure in the 8th plan period to Rs. 175.88 crores.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt., dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 3.1.9)

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

Reply of the Government

In respect of the Hon'ble MPs and Ministers, all efforts are being made to provide them with additional accommodation as required. One block of 28 Nos. of flats for MPs is under construction at BD Marg at 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 L.B.Z. relaxation obtained.

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 Bungalows 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.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 in 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.

Reply of the Government

In spite of pleading with the Planning Commission from time to time, it has not been possible on part of the Department to provide enhanced allocation for IDSMT as envisaged earlier. The

key problem is that within the limited allocation of funds to the Department by the Planning Commission, it is not possible to find additional resources for IDSMT. However, the Planning Commission has been addressed again to enhance the allocation for IDSMT to Rs. 100 crores per year.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Scheme of Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT)

Recommendation (Para No. 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 IX 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.

Reply of the Government

Keeping in view the committed liability of Central Assistance to be released during IX Plan for ongoing IDSMT projects continuing from VII Plan onwards and the targetted coverage of 400 additional towns during the IX Plan, the proposal has again been taken up with the Planning Commission for considering the provision of enhanced Central Plan allocation of Rs. 300 crores for the IX Plan including Rs. 93 crores for 1997-98.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 the 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.

Reply of the Government

The Planning Commission had notionally indicated an outlay of Rs. 700 crores for Mega City Scheme for the 8th Five Year Plan. However, the budgetary outlay was Rs. 312 crores, out of which an amount of Rs. 290 crores only was released as there were further budgetary cuts imposed by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has written to the Planning Commission for enhancement of allocation under the scheme in the 9th Five Year Plan period, in order to ensure constant flow of funds to the nodal agencies for projects being implemented under the Mega City Scheme.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para 3.3.9)

It is further noted by the Committee with regret the contradictory positions explained by Secretary as given in the written note to 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.

Reply of the Government

Undoubtedly, HUDCO is the principal financing agency for urban infrastructure projects. The India Infrastructure Report by the Rakesh Mohan Committee, constituted by the Finance Ministry had recommended the creation of IDFC and based on this recommendation, the IDFC has been constituted. The Rakesh Mohan Committee has dealt with the following sectors of infrastructures urban infrastructure, power, telecom, roads, industrial parks and ports. The role of IDFC is not limited to any sector by the Rakesh Mohan Committee or the Finance Ministry. Thus, the IDFC could, in principle, support the development of urban infrastructure. However, the operationalisation IDFC would take considerable time and therefore, the role of HUDCO in the present circumstances is crucial. The suggestions of the Committee are welcome. A technical Assistance Project regarding lending by HUDCO for infrastructure projects is now under implementation. After the TA findings are available, the Ministry will initiate steps to create an appropriate institutional framework for urban infrastructure financing.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 lakh 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.

Reply of the Government

Based on the suggestions by the Committee, a proposal has been made to the Planning Commission for the provision of funds for strengthening of the Urban Mapping Scheme. State Governments have

also been requested to develop city/town maps using GIS and Remote sensing technology and prepare perspective, development and action plans.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The Standing Committee has rightly observed and recommended that in view of inadequacy of up-to-date base maps for large number of urban areas a movement should be launched to have the updated base maps of each city/town in the country. In fact, considering the acute shortage of base maps, Ministry initiated a scheme on urban mapping in the 8th Five Year Plan which envisaged to cover 50 towns on pilot basis with objectives of having up-to-date aerial photography on scale 1:10000 and preparation of large base maps and generation of digital graphic data for updating of maps in a revision cycle. Under the first phase of the scheme 25 towns have been covered for which aerial photography has been completed. Under the second phase of the scheme the Ministry is in the process of selection of 25 towns in consultation with State Governments from amongst the States other than the six States already covered. However, a selective approach may be adopted as all the cities/towns may not have the same pressing problems or urgency. Therefore, on the basis of Ninth Five Year Plan, efforts will be made to prepare base maps for all large cities and fast growing towns or the potential centres of growth in the Tenth Five Year Plan. For the Ninth Five Year Plan period, Planning Commission has been requested to provide an amount of Rs. 10.00 crores for this scheme.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 for Computerisation of Land Records should be launched in line with the similar schemes of Rural Development.

Reply of the Government

We have obtained the guidelines relating to Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records operated by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment. TCPO has been requested to formulate a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records and thereafter the matter will be taken up with the Planning Commission for approval of the Scheme and provision of adequate funds for implementation of the Scheme.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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. At 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/State 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.

Reply of the Government

What is exactly meant by multiple accommodation needs to be clarified. It is presumed that it is meant that the multistoried accommodation is recommended. Where slum dwellers are willing, this Department supports this view. If necessary funds can be earmarked.

The main problem is finding a long term solution, is one of tenurial rights. Tenurial rights particularly on private land and belonging to institutions such as Railways and Defence Ministry etc. and tenurial rights on Govt. land earmarked for other public purposes, are the basic issues.

Land acquisition in respect of slum development should be considerably simplified, kept out-side the purview of courts and provision made for quick and reasonable compensation to be fixed through committees comprising a local revenue authority, and presided over by Judges.

Once tenurial rights are established, adequate financial allocation will have to be made. Once tenurial rights are established, financial institutions will also come forward in a big way to elected assistance particularly for housing.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban
Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para Nos. 3.7.3 & 3.7.4)

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 of transport integration; (iii) setting up "National Urban Transport Development Funds" at the city level to finance urban transport projects (iv) encouraging private sector involvement in construction of rail-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.

The Committee note the laudable objective as emphasised in the strategy of 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."

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment is making every effort to achieve the objectives given in para 3.7.3 of the Report.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, (Department of Urban Development) O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 4.1.8)

In the Chief Minister's 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.

Reply of the Government

Water supply is the most important of the basic needs of life, provision of safe and adequate water supply alongwith sanitation facilities to the community alone can fulfil the goal of providing "health for All by 2000 A.D.". This has been a major concern for the Government. The State Chief Minister's conference held in July, 1996 of Basic Minimum Services has outlined the following two objectives.

- (i) The Government will draw up special plans during 9th plan period to ensure that every habitation has access to potable drinking water and
- (ii) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) should be extended to cover population upto one lakh.

The working group on urban water supply and sanitation sector for the 9th Five Year Plan estimated that at present 85% of urban population has been covered with supply of safe drinking water and to achieve the objective of 100% coverage, an investment of Rs. 26301 crores would be required during the plan period. As per the assessment out of 26301 crores require Rs. 18194 crores and Rs. 6977 crores is to

be provided under the State plan and the Central plan respectively. Further, Rs. 1130 crores has to be provided for by the Local Bodies/Beneficiaries Contributions.

At present this Ministry is implementing a Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for providing drinking water facilities to towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census). The cost of the scheme is shared in the ratio of 50 : 50 by the Central and the State Governments. During the 8th plan period 227 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 218.49 crores were approved and Central share of Rs. 68.49 crores had been released to the State Governments. Since the inception of the 9th plan, 24 more schemes have been approved so far at an estimated project cost of Rs. 26.51 crores and Central share of Rs. 13.08 crores has been released to the State Governments. As per the information received, 18 schemes have already been completed under the programme and other schemes are at various stages of implementation.

To implement the decision taken in the Chief Minister's conference to extend AUWS Programme to cover towns having population upto one lakh, it is estimated that by March, 2002 A.D., a provision of Rs. 3596 crores in the Central Plan will be required, during the 9th Plan Period. However, only Rs. 28 crores have been provided under the AUWS Programme in the Budget for the year 1997-98.

In pursuance of the decision of the Committee, matter has been once again taken up with the Planning Commission to make sufficient provisions during the 9th Plan period. However, plan provisions have not been finalised as yet.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, (Department of Urban Development) O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry has requested all the State Governments to take up the matter with the Urban Local Bodies and to ensure that the assets created under AUWS Programme are properly maintained and optimally utilised so that intended benefits accrue to the community.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, (Department of Urban Development) O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 4.2.4)

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

Reply of the Government

The National Mission on Environment Health and Sanitation considering the various aspects of Low Cost Sanitation Scheme projected a requirement of Rs. 6057 crores to be shared in 1:1 ratio between the Centre and the States during the 9th five year plan for the programme. However, in view of the resource constraints it is proposed to provide an outlay of Rs. 300 crores in the 9th Five Year Plan for conversion/construction of 10.9 lakh units and 21830 community latrines. For the annual plan 1997-98 an outlay of Rs. 60 crores was proposed for conversion/construction 2.2 lakh units and 4366 community latrines. However, Rs. 28 crores only have been allocated during the current year for the scheme. As per the decision of the Committee, Planning Commission was once again requested to make sufficient plan provisions during the 9th Five Year Plan. Plan outlays have not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, (Department of Urban Development) O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 6.8)

The amount incurred by various Ministries/Departments on private is increasing year by year. The Committee take serious note of it 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.

Reply of the Government

No Objection Certificates for private printing are issued under unavoidable circumstances for those jobs which cannot be processed due to lack of infrastructure in Government of India Presses and some times in view of time factor and non-availability of raw materials desired by the Departments. Before issue of No Objection Certificates the concerned Departments are requested to get their jobs printed within the infrastructural facilities available with the Government of India Presses and to provide reasonable time for printing. The expenditure incurred on private printing by other departments is increasing every year due to hike in expenditure for production of printed material. Some of the printing machines which are under creation in Government of India Presses are of old type as only some of the presses have been modernised. There is a ban on filling up of posts in Government of India Presses by direct recruitment. However, efforts are being made to utilise the presses to their optimal capacity.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Para 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.

Percentage of satisfaction presently prevailing overall in the country in respect of General Pool Housing is 25%. While it would be certainly welcome to attempt 100% satisfaction as suggested by the Committee, it may not be practicable due to the large magnitude of funds required for achieving the target. The Ministry, therefore, feels that it would be realistic to fix a target of 70% satisfaction in Delhi and 50% in other cities, the target to be achieved over a period of 20 years. The funds required for this programme would be overall Rs. 300 crores per year at the present-day prices.

Compared to this we are receiving on an average an allotment of only Rs. 40 crores per year which is woefully inadequate. The Ministry has requested the Planning Commission/Min. of Finance for enhancing the plan allocations for this Sector.

As suggested by the Committee, the Department is ready with the plan of action and for the utilisation of resources allotted. The Ministry has a number of schemes which are ripe for sanction but sanctions are presently being with-held as allocation of funds are inadequate.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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 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 maintain the specific data for each of the city to know the magnitude of slum population.

Reply of the Government

The Government has introduced a Special Central Assistance to States for Slum Development since August, 1996. In the year 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 250 crores was distributed to States and in the current year, a provision of Rs. 330 crores has been made. This fund is to be used to improve the facilities in slums and to address longstanding problems and issues relating to Habitat.

The Swaran Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana launched in August, 1997 also makes a substantial provision and lays emphasis on creation of basic minimum services in urban poor areas.

With reference to the specific query of the Committee regarding the decadal growth of population, etc. it is submitted that the figures are quoted from the Delhi Statistical Hand Book published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics GNTCD (a copy of the relevant extract is enclosed). This Ministry does not generate such data itself but uses and relies on such data as is generated by specialised Government agencies in this behalf, to avoid unnecessary duplication.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

In respect of office accommodation also there is a shortage of 9 lakh sqm. of office space in Delhi and 9 other cities in the country. It is estimated that we would require an amount of Rs. 45 crores per year for the next 20 years to make up for this shortage. As against this, allotment of funds for the year 1997-98 has been only Rs. 20 crores.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

The Planning Commission notionally indicated an outlay of Rs. 700 crores for the Mega City Scheme for 8th Plan period. However, funds to the tune of Rs. 290 crores was provided by the Planning Commission during 1993-97. For 9th Plan period the Ministry has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 600 crores under Mega City Scheme to overcome the resource constraint. The final allocation is yet to be communicated by the Planning Commission.

Under Mega City Scheme, the funds are released directly to the nodal agencies and not the State Governments.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 5 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 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 sources that Central/State Governments, it may be through taxation and non-tax revenue in the form of tariffs and user charge based urban services.

Reply of the Government

Under the Mega City Scheme, package of remunerative, non-remunerative and user charge based projects are taken up for implementation in such a manner that the project basket as a whole is financially viable. The Mega City Scheme guidelines provide for adopting direct and indirect methods of raising resources by imposition of special levies, user charges, special taxes on the facilities used by the consumers by creation of infrastructure facilities so that the viability of the scheme could be maintained.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 5 of the Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 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.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment hold meetings to review the implementation of the Mega City Scheme at regular interval. Further, the State Level Project Sanctioning Committee Meetings are held by Nodal Agencies regularly for monitoring and reviewing the progress of project being implemented under Mega

City Scheme. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment insist on utilisation of funds, released earlier, by the nodal agencies to be eligible for release of further central assistance under Mega City Scheme.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 5 of the Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 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 schemes. They would urge that during Ninth Plan sufficient funds should be provided for the infrastructural scheme of the Department.

Reply of the Government

As against a notionally indicated outlay of Rs. 700 crores for the Mega City Scheme for 8th Plan period, the Planning Commission provided a sum of Rs. 290 crores. Therefore, the Ministry has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 600 crores under Mega City Scheme for the 9th Plan period to meet the increasing demand for funds for providing basic infrastructure facilities in the Mega Cities. The final allocation is yet to be intimated by the Planning Commission.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 5 of the Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 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 consider to provide some scheme for such not covered cities.

Reply of the Government

The matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission and the Commission has ruled that it is not feasible to introduce/formulate a new scheme in view of the severe constraints on the domestic budget support.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Para 3.5.2)

More than 1 year and 8 months have elapsed since Delhi Rent Act, 1995 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 that the Delhi Rent Act should be notified after considering the amendments suggested in the said final note without any further delay.

Reply of the Government

The Delhi Rent Act, 1995 was assented to by the President on 23.8.95. A large number of representations were received in this Ministry from the Associations/Organisations and individuals. While some have been demanding changes in certain provisions of the Act, others have been asking for immediate enforcement of the Act. An All Party Committee was also constituted by the then Chief Minister of Delhi immediately after the Delhi Rent Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The All Party Committee suggested certain changes in some of the provisions of the Act.

The Government have examined all these representations from the individuals/Associations and also the recommendations made by the All party Committee, in various high level meetings convened by the PMO and also by this Ministry which were attended to by the senior officers from the Government of Delhi and the Government of India. In these meetings a view emerged that some of the provisions of the Act may be amended. The Government have been examining various proposals to amend some of the provisions of the Act. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment will take every action required to expedite the notification.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Recommendation (Para No. 4.1.7)

The Department has claimed that about 84.57% of the urban population have access in 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 AUWSP. 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.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry has so far not received any proposal for assistance under AUWS Programme for Baganpalli. Hailakundi has population more than 20,000 and therefore does not qualify for assistance under AUWSP.

As per the directions of the Standing Committee formats for collecting data or availability of water have already been sent to State Govts./Uts. So far information has been received only from 16 States/UTs. It will be possible to give correct information only after compilation of information in respect of all the State Govts. which is still awaited.

[Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Department of Urban Development O.M. No. H-11013/1/97-Bt. dated 1.4.98]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;
February 24, 1999
 Phalgun 5, 1920 (Saka)

KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN,
 Chairman,
 Standing Committee on
 Urban & Rural Development.

APPENDIX I

COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1998-99)

**Extracts of Minutes of the 34th sitting of the Committee
on Urban and Rural Development held on Tuesday, the
9th February, 1999 in Committee Room 'C',
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1550 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Sriram Chauhan
4. Shri Ramkrushna Suryabhan Gavai
5. Shri Mitha Lal Jain
6. Shri Subhash Maharia
7. Shri Bir Singh Mahato
8. Smt. Raneer Narah
9. Shri Rameshwar Patidar
10. Shri Mullappally Ramachandran
11. Shri Gaddam Ganga Reddy
12. Shri Chatin Singh Samaon
13. Shri Nikhilaranda Sar

14. Shri I.M. Jayaram Shetty
15. Shri Daya Singh Sodhi
16. Dr. Ram Vilas Vedanti
17. Shri K.Venugopal

Rajya Sabha

18. Shri Nilotpal Basu
19. Shri Jhumuklal Bhendia
20. Dr. Manmath Nath Das
21. Shri N.R. Dasari
22. Shri John F. Fernandes
23. Shri C. Apok Jamir
24. Shri Onkar Singh Lakhawat
25. Prof. A Lakshmisagar
26. Shri Jagdambi Mandal

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.C. Rastogi | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 2. Smt. Sudesh Luthra | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee.

Consideration of draft Action Taken Reports

3. The Committee considered the following Memoranda regarding draft Action Taken Reports:—

- | | | | |
|-------|------|------|------|
| (i) | **** | **** | **** |
| (ii) | **** | **** | **** |
| (iii) | **** | **** | **** |

- (iv) Memorandum No. 13 regarding Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment).

(v) **** **** ****

4. The Committee, then authorised the Chairman, to finalise the said Reports on the basis of factual verification from the concerned Ministries/Departments and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

**EXTRACTS FROM THE DELHI STATISTICAL HAND BOOK
REGARDING DECENNIAL GROWTH OF POPULATION**

**DELHI STATISTICAL
HAND BOOK**

1994

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY OF DELHI**

AREA AND POPULATIONS

POPULATION OF DELHI—DECENNIAL GROWTH

Description				
Period	Popula- tion	Percentage variation since previous Census	Region	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1901	405819	—	Total
		214115	—	Urban
		191701	—	Rural
2.	1911	413851	1.98	Total
		237944	11.13	Urban
		175907	-8.24	Rural
3.	1921	488452	18.03	Total
		304420	27.94	Urban
		184032	4.62	Rural
4.	1931	636246	30.26	Total
		447442	46.98	Urban
		188804	2.59	Rural
5.	1941	917939	44.27	Total
		695686	55.48	Urban
		222253	17.72	Rural

1	2	3	4	5
6.	1951	1744072	90.00	Total
		1437134	106.58	Urban
		306938	38.10	Rural
7.	1961	2658612	52.44	Total
		2359108	64.17	Urban
		299204	-2.52	Rural
8.	1971	4065698	52.93	Total
		3647023	54.57	Urban
		418675	39.93	Rural
9.	1981	6220406	53.00	Total
		5768200	58.16	Urban
		452206	8.01	Rural
10.	1991	9420644	51.45	Total
		8171625	46.87	Urban
		949019	109.86	Rural

APPENDIX III

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

Analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (11th Lok Sabha)

I. Total Number of Recommendations	27
II. Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government	17
Sl. Nos. 2.8, 3.1.7, 3.1.9, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.3.8, 3.3.9, 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.6.9, 3.7.3, 3.7.4, 4.1.8, 4.1.9, 4.2.94 and 6.8.	
Percentage to the total recommendations	62.96%
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	3
Sl. Nos. 3.1.8, 3.6.8 and 5.4	
Percentage to the total recommendations	11.11%
IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of that Government have not been accepted by the Committee	5
Sl. Nos. 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and 3.3.10	
Percentage to the total recommendations	18.52%
V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	2
Sl. Nos. 3.5.2 and 4.1.7	
Percentage to the total recommendations	7.41%