GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4743
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010
UN- HABITAT REPORT ON SLUM DWELLERS
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Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the UN-HABITAT has prepared and released any report on slum dwellers recently;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a) & (b): The UN-HABITAT has recently released a Report titled 'State of the World's Cities 2010/2011: Bridging the Urban Divide'. Details of the Report are at Annexure.

(c): Government has already announced Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) to assist States/Union Territories which are willing to assign property rights to slum dwellers. The Government's effort will be to make India slum free through implementation of RAY.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4743 FOR 23.04.2010

State of the World's Cities 2010/11 − UN-HABITAT - Summary of Findings

A total 227 million people in the world have moved out of slum conditions since 2000, meaning governments have collectively surpassed the Millennium Development target by 2.2 times.
22 million people in developing countries moved out of slums each year between 2000 and 2010 as a result of slum upgrading.
While welcome, the overall reduction in the world's urban divide still requires greater effort since the "absolute number" of slum dwellers has actually increased from 776.7 million in 2000 to some 827.6 million in 2010. This means that 55 million new slum dwellers have been added to the global urban population since 2000.
The progress made on the slum target has not been enough to counter the growth of informal settlements in the developing world, as stated by UN-HABITAT.
Efforts to reduce the number of slum dwellers, and the urban divide at its most unacceptable, are neither satisfactory nor adequate, especially when considering that 50.6% of the world's population (or 3.49 billion) now live in urban areas.
Regionally, today, sub-Saharan Africa has the largest slum population where 199.5 million (or 61.7%) of its urban population live in such areas. It is followed by Southern Asia with 190.7 million (35%), Eastern Asia with 189.6 million (28.2%), Latin America and the Caribbean with 110.7 million (23.5%), South-Eastern Asia with 88.9 million (31%), Western Asia with 35 million (24.6%), North Africa with 11.8 million (13.3%) and Oceania with six million (24.1%).
Short of drastic action, the world slum population will probably grow by six million each year (or another 61 million people) to hit a total of 889 million by 2020.
Governments in Asia region succeeded in improving the lives of 172 million slum dwellers. This represents 74% of the total number of urban residents in the world who no longer suffer from inadequate housing.
The greatest advances in the region were in South and Eastern Asia where 145 million moved out of the "slum dweller" category (73 million and 72 million respectively); this represented a 24% decrease in the total population living in slums in both sub-regions.
Countries in Southeast Asia also improved the living conditions of 33 million slum residents − a decrease of 22%.
In absolute numbers, China and India have improved the lives of more slum dwellers than any other country. Together, they have lifted at least 125 million out of slum conditions between 1990 and 2010.
China has made the most progress, with improvements to the day-to-day-conditions of 65.3 million urban residents who were living with one or more factors of shelter deprivation. In proportional terms, China's Urban slum population fell from 37.3% in 2000 to some 28.2% in 2010, a 25% relative decrease.
India has helped 59.7 million urban residents out of slum conditions since 2000. Slum prevalence fell from 41.5% in 1990 to some 28.1% in 2010, a relative decrease of 32%.

Source: 'State of the World's Cities 2010/2011: Bridging the Urban Divide'.