

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6962

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010

COMMITTEE ON UTILISATION OF SURPLUS SALT PAN LANDS OF MUMBAI

Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to examine the issues relating to utilization of surplus Salt Pan Lands of Mumbai which have become unsuitable for salt manufacture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the committee has since submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendation made by the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government is ready to allow to build more housing projects on this unused salt land of Mumbai; and
- (f) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. A three member Committee comprising Secretaries of Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and Chief Secretary of Government of Maharashtra was constituted in 2006 for suggesting clear guidelines based on mutually acceptable terms for effecting out of court settlement, suggesting possible usage of land falling under 'No Development Zone' and to explore the possibility of utilization of 106 acres of land next to the dumping ground (Kanjur village) for settlement of encroachers on Government of India Land.

(c) & (d): The Committee requested the Government of Maharashtra for the following actions:-

- (i) Effecting corrections in the revenue records for restoring the original entry of 'Mithagar' in favour of the Government of India.
- (ii) To propose draft guidelines for a compromise settlement of disputed lands with the litigants so as to free the land for rehabilitation of encroachers and development projects.
- (iii) Freeing the land at Kanjur village from the proposed dumping ground for resettlement of slum dweller, encroachers and using the salt land at Mulund for dumping ground.
- (iv) Adoption of common strategy by the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra for defending Government interest in various litigations involving salt lands before the Courts.

The Government of Maharashtra set up an internal Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, in January 2007, to work out an appropriate scheme for development of salt pan lands at Mumbai for settlement of slum dwellers and taking up of other socio-economic development projects.

(e) & (f): In view of various administrative, land use, legal and litigation issues involved, a clear time frame for utilization of Salt Pan Land of Mumbai cannot be given at this stage.