

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2389

ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014

WORLD BANK STUDY ON URBAN LOCAL BODIES

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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in its study had revealed that most of the urban local bodies are not people centric in their approach on delivery of municipal services and suffer from improper staffing and lack of standardisation:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to address the issues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. DEEPA DASMUNSHI)

(a) & (b): The World Bank in its Study 'Synthesis Study of Public Financial Management and Accountability (PFMA) in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)' of March 2007 has mentioned that most ULBs and State Legislations in the country need to be more people centric and need to evolve to focus on compliance, and that issues relating staffing pattern and standardisation in most ULBs is required to be addressed adequately. The Government of India is already seized of these issues and is addressing these through various initiatives and schemes like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM), Capacity Building Scheme for Urban Local Bodies, Service Level Benchmarks for the Water & Sanitation Sector & e-governance, National Urban Sanitation Policy etc. Community participation is one of the critical components of the JnNURM. The matter with respect to establishment of a municipal cadre at State level and taking up capacity building initiatives by States has been stressed upon by Government from time to time.

(c): Taking into consideration the report of the High Powered Expert Committee under the chairpersonship of Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia for estimating investment requirement for urban Infrastructure Services, and that of Report of the Committee on JnNURM-II under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission, contours of formulation of next phase of JnNURM is under consideration. Meanwhile to ensure that there is no hiatus and the momentum gathered over the last few years is maintained, Government has approved the proposal of Ministry of Urban Development to mandate continuation of JnNURM to sanction new projects and capacity building activities till 31st March 2014. The HPEC Report was submitted to the Government in March, 2011 and the Report of the Committee on JnNURM-II was submitted in January 2012. Final decision on the strategy and initiatives for the next phase of JnNURM has not been taken.