

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3376
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
URBAN CONGESTION
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether urban cities are facing an acute crisis of urban transport despite increasing investments in road infrastructure, planned land use and transport development and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether problems like congestion, environmental hazards and safety issues are rising day by day in all these cities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring strong measures to decongest urban areas including discouraging the use of private vehicles;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. Urban Transport is a State subject which is intertwined with urban development. The details of various cities as desired are not maintained in the Ministry. However, to promote public transport, this Ministry is sanctioning the buses to all the major cities/Urban Agglomerations/notified municipalities as per demand of the State Government. Till date 9532 buses has been sanctioned to 111 cities in 17 States.

(b): To encourage modal shift from private mode of transport to public transport and to check the alarming increase of private vehicles a joint endeavour of the Central, State and local Governments is required. For popularizing the public transport, the Central Government is emphasizing on providing quick, comfortable, reliable, safe, affordable and quality public transport as envisaged in the National Urban Transport Policy, 2006. Accordingly, the Central Government is supporting various public transport projects such as Metro Rail, Bus Rapid Transport system (BRTS) and modern city bus services as per urban bus specifications in various cities in India.

(c) & (d) :To improve the city transport system and make them sustainable, following steps have been taken:

(i) The details of the on-going Metro Projects are shown in Annexure-I.

(ii) Ministry of Urban Development has received proposals for New Metro Rail Project which are under consideration viz. Extension of Corridor-1 of Chennai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Patna, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar, Bhopal & Indore, Pune, Ludhiana, Tri- City of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula, Nagpur, Raipur - Bhilai - Durg-Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh, Visakhapatnam, NOIDA.

(iii) The details of the BRTS projects are shown in Annexure-II.

(iv) Bus funding Projects Sanctioned under JnNURM during 2013-14.

Under the second stimulus package announced by the Government of India in January, 2009, the States, as a one-time measure, have been provided financial assistance for purchase of 15260 (revised 15441) modern intelligent transport system enabled buses for their urban transport system under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM). The financing is meant exclusively for City Bus Service and Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) for all (61) mission cities. The total project cost is Rs.4723.97 crore (estimated). The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is Rs,2092 crore (estimated). ACA amounting to Rs.1532 crore (approx.) has already been released (as on 31.1.2014).

(iv)(a) Bus funding Projects Sanctioned under JnNURM during 2013-14 : In compliance of the Budget Speech for 2013-14 by the Union Finance Minister for sanctioning of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for procurement of buses with special focus on hill States, Ministry of Urban Development is sanctioning Additional Central Assistance for procurement of buses as well as ancillary infrastructure under the Scheme for 'Funding for procurement of up to 10,000 Buses and ancillary infrastructure for urban transport under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) for all cities/ towns/ urban agglomerations (UAs) in India'. The project is meant for 2013-14 only. The total approximate project cost is Rs.6,300crore and total estimated ACA is Rs. 4,450 cr. (Rs.

2800 Cr. for buses and Rs. 1650 Cr. for ancillary infrastructure).

So far 9532 buses to 111 cities/ cluster of cities in 17 States with the estimated project cost of Rs.3939 crore (approx.) has been approved by the Central Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (CSMC) in its 7 meetings. Total ACA (GoE share) approved for bus funding project Rs.2432 crore (estimated).

As far as ancillary infrastructure project is concerned total 121 proposals with total project cost Rs. 949 crore (estimated) have been sanctioned. Total ACA approved for ancillary infrastructure Rs. 430 crore (estimated).

(v) An advisory letter has been issued to all the States and UTs regarding study on Congestion Charges in Central Business Areas/Congested areas in Indian cities and requested them to issue the necessary instruction to all concerned authorities for identifying the most congested areas in their cities, getting a proper study done on various aspects of congestion of traffic as per city requirement and consider adopting `Congestion Charges` as a measure to decongest a particular area Central Business District, increasing mode share of cycling as well as public transport and mobility of the people besides controlling pollution. A copy of the advisory has also been uploaded on the website of the MoUD.

The Central Government has also proposed to provide funding up to 80 percent for taking up study on congestion charging vide letter dated 11th July, 2013. So far, no formal proposal in this regard has been received from the States/UTs,

(e): Does not arise.