

Title: Need to release funds to Tamil Nadu and other states for undertaking urban sector reforms.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (DINDIGUL): Sir, creation of Urban Reforms Fund was announced in last year's Budget. But unfortunately, no money has been released yet to any State so far. In the mean time a Committee was set up to prepare a framework of Urban Sector Reforms. As such seven areas have been identified. "Revision of By-Laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings and development of sites" is one area for reforms. At the instance of all States consulted the MoU is to be modified. The Urban Development Ministry's Committee headed by the Secretary has also promised that they will take decisions consulting the Ministries concerned. But to the contrary, Union Environment and Forest Ministry has issued a unilateral order in the name of coastline preservation. This affects the development of many urban centres of many States like Tamil Nadu which makes efforts to give a facelift to the city of Chennai. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to entrust such responsibility only with Union Urban Development Ministry as assured earlier and to release funds to the States at the earliest.