

Title : Need to include Cuttack in National Urban Renewal Mission.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards non-inclusion of the millenium city Cuttack of Orissa in the National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM). That is a good project which the Central Government has taken up by combining a number of other projects of the Ministry of Urban Development.

The peculiar case is, with rapid industrialisation taking place in the State of Orissa, more than Rs. 1,50,000 crore of investment is expected to take place over five years' time in sectors such as steel, aluminium, power, information technology, tourism and even petroleum etc. So, urban areas need heavy investment for upgradation of urban infrastructure. Cuttack is the oldest city of the State with a population of around 8 lakh people and a floating population of around 30,000 to 40,000 people everyday. But exclusion of Cuttack from the list of cities that are included in the NURM has evoked strong reactions. Even today, the Municipal Corporation of Cuttack has passed a Resolution and on 3rd December, that is on, Saturday, a *Bandh* is going to be held there.

So, that is the urgency for which I am drawing the attention of the Union Government. It has evoked strong reactions because the Government has failed to recognise the importance of the city of Cuttack. Inclusion of Bhubaneswar and the Temple City of Puri is worthy of appreciation, no doubt. But I would like to draw the attention of the House that Cuttack being the old Capital of Orissa is the second largest city next to Bhubaneswar. It should be included in the NURM. In the first phase around 60 cities of the country are being included in this project, and the Cabinet including the Planning Commission, and a whole lot of people have gone into that. But the method of selection of the cities is bereft of any particular criterion. That is the main problem.

Sir, for instance, Tirupati has not been included in this project, which is drawing more than 50,000 people everyday. But other cities of the Andhra Pradesh have been included. As regards Orissa, they have included only two cities. But there are States from which more than four cities have been included in this project. So, some criteria have to be fixed.

Therefore, I would again request the Government of India to please reconsider the decision and also include Cuttack in the NURM. Of course, Cuttack should be included. The State Government of Orissa has already requested the Centre in this regard. Keeping in view the geographical area, the population criteria, the historical background, a necessity that Cuttack should be included in the NURM.

Sir, pressure is mounting on every urban centre, and most of the urban bodies are not in a position to meet the challenges of over population. Cuttack is beset with a number of problems like drainage, sanitation, roads, and environment. It is the right path to improve infrastructure. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to please include Cuttack in the NURM.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Alok Kumar Mehta – Not present.

Shri Lalmani Prasad, I would like to mention that Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has also raised the similar matter, which you want to raise. You can associate with him.