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

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the National Urban Renewal Mission which has recently been launched on the 3rd of December, 2005.

Around 63 urban areas have been very randomly selected by the Government. My objection here is, out of all the States, some States have three cities and some have two or one city. It was invariably mentioned that the Capital cities of all the States have been included in this. But while going through the list of the cities, I find there is no specified criteria which has been fixed. Some mega cities have been included. Cities with a population less than one lakh have also been included. Cities with a population less than 10 lakh have also been included. There has been no specific criterion by which the Government is selecting the number of cities. Within another 15 years the urban population will be growing and so the problems will also be growing. The main thrust of this Mission was to have a concerted growth of urban amenities. Around Rs.50,000 crore is going to be spent within another seven years. In 2005-06 around Rs.5,467 crore has been demarcated and 63 cities have been identified. The problem here is, if the Government has selected religious cities, Tirupati has not been included. Amritsar, Haridwar, Puri and Bodhgaya though have been included but Tirupati, which is another major tourist attraction of a religious nature, has not been included. The Government has included a number of mega cities but from West Bengal only two Asansol and Calcutta have been included. In UP around seven cities have been included. So, there are no specific criteria. Let the Government come out and say as to what is the criterion by which it has selected these cities and omitted some other cities. My own home town, Cuttack, which is the main growth centre of Orissa has been omitted.

I would request the Government should consider including Cuttack and Tirupati so also other cities which qualify to be included. At the same time, my demand is that the Government should come out with the specifications, the criteria under which these 63 cities have been selected[R87].