

# Housing and Land Parliamentary Watch YUVA

*By*

**National Desk**



**HOUSING FOR ALL: WHERE IS IT AND FOR WHOM??!!**



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## *Preface*

### *About Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) & YUVA Urban National Desk*

Almost 30 years after its inception, YUVA Urban continues to focus on engagements with youth, women and children to protect and promote the rights of the urban poor to housing, basic services, education, livelihood, social security, and public participation. YUVA Urban's endeavor to engage holistically on social issues accounts for its broad range of activities that span from action organization in communities to international solidarity action.

National Desk of YUVA Urban in New Delhi has also been an extent of its intervention at the National level for Policy Research, Capacity Building and State level intervention on Housing & Land Rights for Urban Poor and Social Security for Informal Workers. Mumbai and Nagpur being the ground for direct community intervention, the National Desk is presently working in 7 States namely, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with other State organizations. Beside this, we are regularly working on various urban issues along with organizations working on the same across the country.

We have recently started our Anti – Eviction Helpline in partnership with various organizations and individuals. In the initial phase, the focus is in the cities of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Mumbai. The concept of the helpline is to reach the affected victims and help them by developing intervention strategies, extending legal aid and connecting to the local organizations and agencies. We are hopeful that many more will join and support us in this effort.

A series of training workshops with the Street Vendors have taken place in the States of Delhi, Bihar and Odisha. The trainings have been focused not only on the Street Vendors' Act 2014 and its provisions but also with the objective to link up the other Rights and Entitlements with the Street Vendors Group. For example – National Food Security Act, Eviction Intervention Strategies, How to file RTI, Right to Education, etc.

We hope to continue our efforts in capacitating the people to struggle and fight for their rights.

## 1. Introduction

### *About Housing and Land Parliamentary Watch*

Popular participation is the cornerstone of a democratic process. Democracy becomes meaningful only when it provides its citizens the space to place their rights through active participation in decision making and in the process of delivery of public services. A strange paradox can be seen between the stated goal of the government and Acts & policies that are eventually enacted. While There is a long way to go for the promises to be fulfilled, but the current policies and actions often follow a path which is not always in the interest of all the sections of the society. Furthermore, policies remain plagued by the problems of implementation which continues to be the weakest link in the equal developmental chain. In this present context, it is imperative to closely monitor and engage in government's actions, decisions, policies and legislations in order to ensure that they are people centric and inclusive. Engaging with debates and discussions that take place in the floor of the Parliament is a starting point to enable the citizens to keep a 'watch' on the institutions of governance to make it participatory, inclusive and most importantly, accountable.

In continuation with the earlier Housing and Land Parliamentary Watch Reports, we remain committed to evaluate the role of the parliament in bringing forth the issues of the urban poor. The present booklet looks at questions raised in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha spanning the periods of 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and 20<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. The booklet also evaluates the questions raised in the 235<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha held from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. The questions raised in the parliament which have been included in this booklet pertain to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

During the present sessions, a total number of 7738 questions, both starred and unstarred were asked in the Lok Sabha. Out of this, only 171 questions were related to housing and land issues of urban poor. This amounts to 2.2% of all the questions asked in the Lok Sabha. The same story was in Rajya Sabha where out of 2172 questions, both starred and unstarred, only 24 questions were asked on the housing and land issue. Here also it constitutes only 1.1 percent.

On a positive side, number and content of questions that have been asked in both the sessions have shown a considerable increase which is definitely a more optimistic signal. But, there is scope for much more affirmation on these issues.

## **Brief Analysis of Questions Asked In The Parliament**

### **1. *Continuing silence and indifference* – Number of questions that reached Parliament.**

Over six decades have elapsed since the Parliamentary system was adopted by India. The essence of Parliamentary Democracy lies in how well people's representation is reflected in the Parliament. It can hence be argued that one of the proxy method of evaluating success and failures of Parliamentary democracy can be done by studying the quality and number of questions that has been raised by people's representative in the Parliament.

If we look at the number of questions that has been raised in the parliament about the most pertinent issues faced by the urban poor, we get to see a very unfortunate picture.

- India's slum population more than doubled, from 43 million in 2001 to 93million in 2011, in 10 years. It is projected to grow at 5% per year, adding nearly 2 million every year according to official Government data. Although this is a gross under-estimation of people who are either homeless, or live in shanties or slum, but even if this data is considered, nothing can justify 3.1percent (adding Lok Sabha and Rayjya Sabha) of questions in the parliament being raised regarding the issue which affects majority of urban population.
- According to UN Habitat, India is home to 63% of all slum dwellers in South Asia. This amounts to 170 million people, 17% of the World's slum dwellers. So, it would not be wrong to argue that India is home to largest number of urban poor living in slum in the entire world. In the last parliamentary session there has been countless number of occasions where Parliamentarians and Honourable Members of Ruling party in the Parliament in the particular, have spoken about how India is one the fastest emerging economy - as a Global Power, Military Super Power. Some of the members spoke about how India should be recognised as Permanent Member of UN and a few went on to the extent of suggesting that 'India is not developing but it has already emerged, it is now a developed Nation'. It is unfortunate that the members in the house didn't bother to raise even a representative amount of questions of the people who live in most inhuman conditions and forms. Far from that, it seems that there wasn't even acknowledgement about some of the very basic facts, including the number of people who live in slums, and nature and intensity of problem faced by them.

The silence about one of the most pertinent issues faced by largest number of urban population is not accidental; it is a very deliberate and calculated politics of chosen silence.

## **2. *Uncritical questions and missed opportunity by Members of Parliament- Quality of questions raised.***

Traditionally the question hour is considered sacrosanct as it provides opportunity to MPs to cross examine the government closely and to hold it accountable. It is for this purpose that the question hour is considered inviolable. Every Member of Parliament has enough resource including a research team and an office which can facilitate well researched sets of questions relevant to the issues faced by people of their respective constituency. In spite of this, the list of questions very clearly shows that there are very few questions which are well researched, pointed and are directed in a manner to get precise response and makes the government accountable in true sense.

Unfortunately, the trend reveals that there has been large number of simplistic and abrupt questions which makes it very easy for the non-functional ministries to find an escape route.

Many of the questions are so simplistic that answers for these are already existing in various governmental departments, ministries and their respective websites. For instance there are number of questions which ask about schemes, plans and salient provisions of an act, which are easily available in Governmental offices and even web-pages. For Example-

One of the question was

“(a) whether the funds allocated to provide basic facilities to urban poor are not being utilised properly;

(b) if so, the reaction of the government thereto;”

The response for such question was very simple, the ministry didnot had to do much to dismiss the question, just because it was vague and not asked directly or specifically, the answer was:

a) No, Sir

b) The question does not arise.

Another instance, the question was:

- a) the salient provisions of the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 along with the details thereof;
- (b) whether under the said policy, all the States were required to prepare a separate housing policy;

Now, salient provisions are easily available online. Moreover there is large number of repetitive questions which shows that the members fail to strategise and make good use of limited amount of time and space which could have been used more constructively. For instance there are repetitive questions with respect to existing schemes and its implementation. A better strategy could have been to co-ordinate with other members and formulate better sets of questions around similar issues so that available time could be utilised to get a better response from the government.

Many of the questions are asked in a vague manner which allowed government to give vaguer response or in some cases no response at all. For instance many question demanding subjective or analytical responses were denied with extremely objective responses like 'no madam' or 'no sir'.

### **3. Trend of questions raised in the Parliament. What does this trend indicate:**

Although number of questions that has been raised are very few and even the quality of these question could have been better with a well researched specific and pointed questions. Nevertheless, there has definitely been an increase in number of questions asked in comparison to earlier sessions. This might be because of pressure caused due to increasing intensity of distress among the large section of urban poor who are at receiving end of government's failure. The other factor can be the declaration of "Housing for All by 2022" by the present Government.

There were few important questions asked and following are the areas around which most of the questions were asked:-

- a) Present policy or existing policy which addresses the issues of the urban poor.
- b) Provisions within new policies and plan or status of its implementability.
- c) Status of earlier policy and presently existing policy
- d) Success/failure of policy,schemes and reasons.
- d) whether any study has been done for estimation of number of required houses?
- e) whether any step has been taken to actualise Government's Dream Mission to

provide 'Housing for All' by 2022?

Large number of questions asked about existing policies and schemes along with earlier policies and schemes explains few things very clearly. One, there are long list of schemes which has been introduced for the people and many of them are of similar to each other in terms of its objectives. However the non implementations of many of these have created a space for reasonable doubts and confusions. These confusions are reflected in the repetitive questions asked about various schemes of similar nature. Two, existence of schemes/ policies and their respective provisions should ideally be made easily available to people. It can be listed down on websites of departments and ministries. Either the government has failed in providing clear idea of existing policies or the respective Members of Parliament have not been looking into it. The most important question emerging from this is if the MP's don't know about the existing policies and schemes then how can one expect people to know about it? Moreover, if there is so much of confusion about very existence of schemes on paper, can one expect it to be implemented on the ground and will these policies address the issues faced by people? Moreover, is question hour best platform to ask about existing policies/ schemes and its respective provisions or whether this platform should be used to critically understand the reason for implementation failures, to trigger discussion and debate about success/failures, reasons for it and mechanism to deal with it?

Although the trend of questions has been disappointing, nevertheless, there has been certain pointed and direct questions addressing the core of the issue and making governmental accountable for failure in formulating full proof policies as well as implementation failures. But, unfortunately most of these questions have either remained unanswered, or has been diverted. The way these questions have been answered has been discussed in the next section. But, this trend clearly re-iterates the fact that only a well researched sets of question pointed directly to the core issues can only get desired answers.

#### **4. *Less Questions, No Answers: Analysis of Answers to the question.***

If there were less number of questions asked, there was even lesser number of answers provided. If the questions in general were vague, the answers were either even more ambiguous or there were no answers provided at all. For instance,

- There were several important questions asked about implementation of various schemes and policies to which there would be either vague/irrelevant answers or no

answers at all. For example one of the important and specific question was regarding implementation of Rajiv Awas yojana along with reason for its non-implementation, to which the ministry responded that,

*“Under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), out of Central Share of Rs. 4827.49 Cr, Rs. 1913.14 Cr has been released. In pursuance of the Government’s goal of providing houses to all by 2022, this Ministry is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission “Housing for All”.*

It is important to note here that this was not the question asked.

- Only kind of questions for which answers did come was regarding the schemes, policies that exist and provisions within them. This information ideally should be availed to the public by putting it on web-page or answers for such questions can also be availed by filing RTI or even by asking for it in written.
- There were many questions asked about implementation of various schemes and policies for which only provisions of the policy were laid down in response, no comment on implementation and actualisation of objective was provided
- In-spite of so many specific and pointed questions that has been asked in both the houses of parliament regarding the implementation and inaction of various policies and schemes, the government remains silent and answers all the questions vaguely.

Most of the relevant questions were answered by:

- a) The plan or proposal is currently at appraisal stage.
- b) 'No, madam' or 'No,sir' – Without addressing about 'why not' even if it was specifically asked in the question.
- c) ‘Slum’ and ‘Housing’ are State subjects. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is assisting State Governments to address the issue of rehabilitation of slums through its schemes.
- d) Government has announced new Mission to provide ‘Housing for All’ by 2022.

Infact, the last point is the most crucial one and this requires a separate discussion.

- More than fifty question which were very important and asked specifically pointing

to policy and its implementation remained unaddressed with exactly same answer, which was, *“The Government is in process of launching a Comprehensive Mission for assisting the States & Union Territories to achieve the target of ‘Housing for All’ by 2022 in urban areas”*

- There were also questions specific to idea of 'housing for all', about how is government planning to achieve it and about what has been done so far. For instance, here is a question:

*“(a) whether the Government has approved/finalised the modalities of ‘Housing for All’ with a view to making India slum free and if so, the details thereof;*  
*(b) the number of units of houses required to be constructed under the scheme and the estimated expenditure thereof;*  
*(c) whether private investment and partnerships may play a major role in this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and*  
*(d) whether the Government has approached any international organisation for loan/aid to implement this scheme and if so, the details thereof along with the response of those organisations?”*

The ministry had no answers to any of these questions, in-fact it did agree that nothing has yet been done for this. The question then arises that when the government has not done anything starting from analysis of scope of the issue after the completion of one year of its rule, then would it be realistic to even imagine completion of such ideas or even an effective action towards it in its term? – Here you can add on how instead of the basic need for housing, govt. is focused on smart cities.

##### **5. 'Housing for all'? How?**

*“The Government is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission for assisting the States & UTs to achieve the target of “Housing for All” by 2022 in urban areas”.* This is the response that was given for more than 50 relevant questions asked regarding various aspects of housing. But there were no explanation provided, even if asked specifically.

There were also statements like *“Housing shortage is estimated at 20 million by 2022 in urban area.”* However there was no explanation on how this data was reached. How has this data of 20 million derived? Doesn't reaching this data without appropriate consideration of rapid increase in the rural to urban migration, increasing number of workers in informal economy and rapid rate of city and slum expansion lead to gross under-estimation? I. Also, considering that in almost all the cities there is hardly any significant work done with respect

to any kind of investment on housing needs of poor or study/analysis about the nature and extent of the problem it would only be unfair to design a policy.

#### **6. 'Social, Justice, equity and democracy', a distant dream or a myth?**

In Both the houses there were questions raised about socially and economically weaker sections including the minorities, economically and socially vulnerable groups, and even regarding whether there is housing provision for patients suffering from HIV+. Although there were very few questions asked about the marginalised section, and these questions doesn't represent the actual number of socially and economically backward group. Nevertheless, it was heart-breaking to see Government's response to these extremely crucial questions. The Government in their various responses chose to either just answer in 'No' or adding that *“The Government is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission for assisting the States & UTs to achieve the target of “Housing for All” by 2022 in urban areas.”*

Although the romantic, idea of *“Housing for All” by 2022* has already been discussed earlier but, it is pertinent to ask few important question especially from the view-point of social-justice and affirmative action:

One way of looking at this can be that government has finally acknowledged that Housing is a Right for everyone. But, considering Governments responses to this session as well as earlier sessions, Govt. has clearly stated that housing is not a fundamental right. So this is clearly not the case.

In that situation the only other way we can understand this is that, Government implies that 'everyone' or 'all' are equal and this is going to be a general policy with no scope for affirmative action. Has the government forgotten about various socio-economic stratification which has not just existed since ages but their condition has only worsened due to increasing inequality between haves and have-nots? Has the Government also forgotten about the struggle which ensured social justice through affirmative action in the Indian Constitution? If not, government needs to be accountable to the housing rights of the most deprived and formulate necessary mechanism to ensure them their basic rights that have been laid down in the constitution.

#### **7. Missed opportunity: Questions that were not asked?**

There were few questions asked, a small fraction of which were answered and only a minuscule of it got a satisfying answer. Although there were few specific questions which the ministry easily managed to dodge, there was opportunity for the ministers and especially those in opposition to ask difficult questions which they missed.

What has not been asked is why has 2022 been taken as a reference year? The structure of Parliamentary Democracy adopted in Indian Constitution allows government tenure of Five years. It becomes obvious that people decide fate of the ruling government based on its deliverables in five years. Yet there has been a trend since the last decade where Government announces an unachievable dream project which can't be possibly actualised in its own tenure. Which means that before the time-frame of the Mega dream is reached the people vote out the Government. And there's a good chance of it since the people are bound to feel cheated and vote-out the ruling Government. Now, a new Government comes and announces another Dream Project. There are striking similarities between them. For instance if we critically see UPA's JNNURM and Mission to provide 'Housing for All by 2022' there are some striking similarities,

- a) **Time framework** in both has been framed in an unrealistic manner, without even an effort to study the **nature and intensity** of the problem and also beyond the mandate given by the people to the respective Governments:
- b) Both are designed to **promote the neo-liberal model** with more privatisation and lesser accountability of the 'welfare' state.
- c) Both **promotes PPP model** – (Public-Private Partnership Model)- the characteristic feature of this model is privatisation and commercialisation with zero accountability towards the rights of the people.
- d) **No study of nature and extent of problem** have been common in both the policies. The trend is that a vague policy with romantic title is given without making any effort to study the nature/extent of the problem and without even making a valid need based assessment and estimated budget to fulfill the need.
- e) **Unrealistic dream and False hope.** While JNNURM has already proved it, the government's approach on the ground as well as Parliament reflects the possibility of definite failure of 'Housing for all Schemes'
- c) There emerges an interesting trend which shows a distinct characteristic of the neo-liberal framework and both the Programmes reflect this trend, where, unlike the idea of 'leizes faire' (free economy) it's not the total absence of state in economy and

polity. Infact, the role of state has only increased in facilitating the anti-people capitalistic growth. The state is absent only from the sector that matters to the poor. So the state in the guise of 'pro-people policies' actually favours the Corporate and once their actual intention is fulfilled they come up with a new policy which again aims at the same objective.

So the most important sets of questions which remained unasked and definitely unanswered is that, what is the logic of 'Housing for all scheme' when earlier schemes have remained undelivered and unfulfilled. Has there been an examination done for failures in implementation of earlier scheme? If yes, why same direction has been taken in formulation of new policy? Will the people continue to vote-out governments because of their failures in addressing peoples issue and will different Government continue favouring the 'rich' and exploiting the 'poor' and wait for their turn to repeat the process in turns. What are the actual intentions of policies like JNNURM and 'Housing for All'? Is it that the Governments make good policies and fail to implement it or is it that the government actually is extremely successful in intentionally making bad policies and implementing it?

The question is not whether the members are insensitive or silent about the issues faced by the poor but then the question is whether the silence is accidental or well calculated? The question is whether this is a missed opportunity (of not asking right questions) or whether the opportunities are intentionally missed.

### **Conclusion: Dwindling hope from Parliamentary Democracy**

Looking into the policies of present government or rather lack of policies for the disadvantaged section the road ahead lies extremely difficult. On one hand there is rising insecurity, unemployment, inequality among the large number of disadvantaged section. On the other hand present government seems to have taken the insensitive policy formulation and implementation mechanism of previous Government to a new height. Though the Government has promised "Housing for All" but why has it then reduced the budget by approximately 300 crores!! Not only in housing, the budget has been reduced by almost 50percent in sectors like Health sector, ICDS, women and Child Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe ,etc. There has not just been depreciating accountability towards poor, and withdrawal of state from social-sector in general (and issues of housing and poverty in particular), but, there has also been increased number of forced evictions, increase in

insecurities, increasing threat to life and livelihood of the socially and economically disadvantaged. In the past one year, the forced eviction of slums located on Central Land has been increasing. At the same time the pace of favouring the anti-poor, pro-Corporate houses in the so called 'development' and 'redevelopment' can almost match the states withdrawal from social sector and its insensitivity and indifference towards the millions who voted for them with great expectation. The most unfortunate part is that while this could have been a very crucial point for the opposition to stand by the people and take this as opportunity to raise important questions, they have failed massively in raising the most pressing concerns of the nation. Even while the Lok Sabha is dominated by one party, the Rajya Sabha could have been an important place to question the ruling government, its policies, its formulation and implementation failures, but this opportunity could also not be capitalised. In such scenario, till how long will the Parliamentary Democracy continue to have people's faith in it?

Democratic values are the core of Representative Parliamentary Democracy. Connectivity of Parliament to the people and their respective issue at grass-root level is foundational premise and the key determinant of this democratic structure. Respect for and faith in parliamentary democracy will grow among the people in proportion to the conviction they gain that their elected representatives are dis-charging their responsibilities with dignity, discipline, diligence, commitment, conviction and honesty. This also calls for stronger and more informed and active participation of people in the democratic process. Since there is a major gap between the Parliamentary process, the ground realities and process of monitoring the process, it is the responsibility of both the state, its civil-society and citizens to actively participate in the process in order to strengthen and deepen the Parliamentary democracy and make it more functional. The Parliamentarians or peoples representative should also acknowledge, understand and work towards filling up the gap, or else, the parliamentary democracy will not be able to stand to the rising questions and concerns of the time to come. It is in this context that it becomes important to remind ourselves of the warning that Dr. Ambedkar had given while handing over the Constitution (and Parliamentary Democracy as a model enshrined in it):

*“On the 26th of January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to*

*deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which is Assembly has to laboriously built up.”*

**ANNEXURE 1 - LIST OF QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4748

ANSWERED ON 22.04.2015

SLUM ACT

4748 . Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Slum Act is not applicable to the Central Government lands in the slums of Mumbai, especially in Dharavi;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Slum Act to rehabilitate the slum dwellers in Mumbai on the Central Government land in consultation with Maharashtra State Government;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(d) whether the Government is also planning to provide low-cost pucca houses in slum areas through a sharing scheme between Government and slum dwellers; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government may announce this policy for rehabilitation of slums in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government of Maharashtra has informed that as per clause (g) of Section 3 Z-6 of Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971, the said Act is not applicable to the Lands belonging to the Government of India or any entity thereof unless the same is voluntarily offered for the housing scheme.

(b) & (c): No, Madam.

(d) & (e): The Government is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission for assisting the States & UTs to achieve target of "Housing for All" by 2022 in urban areas.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4788  
ANSWERED ON 22.04.2015  
SURVEY ON HOUSING REQUIREMENTS  
4788 . Gupta Shri Sudheer

Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant  
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao  
Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh  
Mohan Shri P. C.  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has asked for a fresh survey to ascertain the exact housing shortfall in urban areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has put on hold the `Housing for All` scheme and asked officials to merge it with the rural housing component being carried out by the Rural Development Ministry, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether projects for smart cities and urban renewal of 500 cities have started, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a): No, Madam. However, the Government is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission for assisting the States & UTs to achieve target of "Housing for All" by 2022 in urban areas.

(b):No, Madam.

(c):No, Madam. Ministry of Urban Development has informed that the contours of new National Urban Rejuvenation Mission for infrastructure development of 500 Cities/Towns are being finalized.

STARRED QUESTION NO 320  
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2015  
HOUSING MISSION  
320 . Udhayakumar Shri M.

P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is considering a comprehensive housing programme to cover both rural and urban poor, if so, the details thereof and the targets set for the scheme;

(b) whether any delay in launching the programme may increase the burden as more houses for economically weaker sections will have to be built in lesser number of years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken to accelerate the finalization of the programme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 320 FOR 18.03.2015 REGARDING HOUSING MISSION

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. In pursuance of the Government's goal of providing "Housing to All" by 2022, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, after making extensive consultations with various stakeholders including State Governments, industry associations etc., is in the process of launching a comprehensive Housing Mission in place of its existing housing schemes to provide assistance to States/UTs for providing housing in urban areas.

Further, Ministry of Rural Development has also informed that, in pursuance of government's priority of providing "Housing for All" by 2022, in consultation with the States, related Ministries and experts in rural housing, they are in the process of revamping their existing housing scheme into a Mission to provide assistance for housing in rural areas.

3459 . Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether two trillion US dollars are required to provide eleven crore houses in India and if so, the details thereof ?

(b) whether any corpus has been created to achieve the said target ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a): As per the annual budget 2015-16, Government aims to provide 2 crore houses in urban areas and 4 crore houses in rural areas under `Housing for all` by 2022. It is estimated that 2 crore houses in urban areas will require approximately Rs. 12 lakh crore.

(b) & (c): No Madam. In view of limit on the government resources, larger participation of private investment is envisaged.

UNSTARRED

QUESTION NO

3649

ANSWERED ON

18.03.2015

HOUSING FOR PF ACCOUNT HOLDERS

3649 . Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY be pleased to  
of ALLEVIATION state:-

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to construct and allot affordable houses to the Provident Fund (PF) account holders by the year 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. In pursuance of the Government's goal of providing "Housing to All" by 2022, however, this Ministry is in the process of launching a comprehensive Mission provide assistance to States/UTs for providing housing to slum dwellers and urban poor.

UNSTARRED

QUESTION NO

1526

ANSWERED ON

04.03.2015

CENSUS ON SLUMS

1526 .

Bhamre Dr. Subhash Ramrao

Will the Minister HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY be pleased to  
of ALLEVIATION state:-

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to conduct census of slum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details of the recommendations of committee including the estimated slum population in the country, State-wise/UT-wise; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN  
POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation had set up a Committee to look into various aspects of Slum Statistics/Census and issues regarding the conduct of Slum Census 2011. The Committee was to, inter-alia, develop State-wise and All India urban Slum population estimates based on Census 2001.

(c) & (d): The Committee submitted its Report in August, 2010. The Summary of Recommendations of the Committee is at Annexure-I. The Committee estimated slum population in the entire country for 2011 at 93.05 million. State-wise/UT-wise details are at Annexure-II. However, as per Census 2011 Slum population in the country is 65.5 million.

(e): 'Slum' is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments / ULBs to frame policies to improve the conditions of the Slum Dwellers. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation through its schemes extends assistance to the State Governments.

UNSTARRED

QUESTION NO

274

ANSWERED ON

25.02.2015

SLUM DEVELOPMENT BY CORPORATES

274 .

Patil Shri Sanjay(Kaka) Ramchandra

Will the Minister HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY be pleased to  
of ALLEVIATION state:-

(a) whether the Government has sought/proposes to seek corporate sector's involvement in providing basic amenities in slums in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b): Under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, certain class of companies are required to discharge the obligations of Corporate Social Responsibility. Schedule VII of the said Act lists activities eligible for expenditure by companies for implementation of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). "Slum area development" has been added as a CSR activity under Schedule VII vide an amendment notified on 6th August, 2014.

UNSTARRED

QUESTION NO

820

ANSWERED ON

16.07.2014

SLUM UPGRADATION INDEX

820 .

Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Slum Upgradation Index with an aim to rehabilitating slum dwellers and providing them with basic civic amenities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) & (b): With a view to capture the improvement in housing and infrastructure of the slums, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) has constituted a Committee to look into the various aspects of data, coverage etc. of slum census and suggest methodology for developing a slum index. The Committee was to submit its report within three months from the date of first meeting which was held on 27th March, 2014. The term of the Committee, on its request, has been extended by another three months.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 897  
ANSWERED ON 16.07.2014  
UTILISATION OF FUNDS

897 . Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY be pleased to  
of ALLEVIATION state:-

(a) whether the funds allocated to provide basic facilities to urban poor are not being utilised properly;

(b) if so, the reaction of the government thereto;

(c) the number of States which have utilised less than 50 per cent of the allocated funds per year during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Karnataka; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure optimum utilisation of fund?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): Releases are made based on Physical progress and utilization of earlier released installments. State-wise Scheme progress is Annexed.

(d): For ensuring optimum utilization of funds, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is regularly monitoring progress through physical and financial reports, periodic review meetings at national/state/regional/city level and field visits.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 213  
ANSWERED ON 09.07.2014  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING

213 . Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY be pleased to  
of ALLEVIATION state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to give financial assistance for acquiring land required for housing projects for urban poor in various States and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to revise the cost of housing projects keeping in view the price escalation in building material and labour cost; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) land cost is not financed except for acquisition of private land for schemes/projects in the North Eastern (NE) States & hilly States, viz. Himachal Pradesh (HP), Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). Land cost is not financed under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) anywhere including NE and Hilly States.

(b) & (c): No Madam.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 1292**

**ANSWERED ON 07.05.2015**

**Slum development in metro cities**

1292

Smt. Ambika Soni

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :-

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes aimed for developing the slums in the major metro cities, across the country;

(b) the funds allocated by Government during the last two years, State-wise for such projects along with complete details of spent/unspent funds; and

(c) whether there has been any mechanism to review the implementation of such programmes/projects, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) The following schemes have been implemented by the Ministry for developing the slums in the major metro cities, across the country:

(i) Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for providing housing with basic services to urban poor and slum dwellers.

(ii) Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for providing housing and basic civic & social infrastructure to slum dwellers and urban poor.

(b) No upfront state-wise annual allocation were made under these schemes. The funds are released under these schemes on the basis of progress of projects and utilization of earlier releases. The details of funds released are at Annexure-I.

(c): Ministry has been reviewing the performance of these schemes regularly through meetings of CSMC, review meetings at various levels and video conferencing, Monthly Progress Report etc.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 88**

**ANSWERED ON 30.04.2015**

**Jobs livelihood in smart city project**

88

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :-

Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the manner in which Government plans to ensure jobs/livelihood as part of smart city, as stated in concept draft note; and

(b) the Government's plan in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

[SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU]

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 88\* FOR ANSWER ON 30-04-2015 REGARDING JOBS/LIVELIHOOD IN SMART CITY PROJECT.

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) for improving the livelihood opportunities for the urban poor in all the District Headquarter towns and other cities with a population of the lakh or more. NULM aims to impart skill training to urban poor for self and wage employment and helps urban poor to set up self-employment ventures by providing credit at subsidized rate of interest. A proposal has been moved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to enhance the scope of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) to include all statutory towns in the Mission. The proposal is currently at appraisal stage.

The Smart Cities Mission is being formulated and details will be known only after the Mission is finalized.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 820**

**ANSWERED ON 30.04.2015**

**Possession without occupation certificate**

820

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :-

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of buildings in NCR have not been issued an occupation certificate yet builders hand over possessions to the buyers and allow them to shift; and
- (b) whether Government make it a criminal offence against the builders who allow this practice to be followed?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b): 'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects, it is their responsibility to ensure that occupation certificates are issued before the builders hand over the possessions to the buyers and allow them to shift. It is also the responsibility of the State Governments to take suitable action against those builders who hand over possession to buyers before occupation certificates are issued.

However, in order to protect consumer interests, promote timely completion of projects, help speedy adjudication of disputes and ensure orderly growth of the real estate sector, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has piloted the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill. Union Cabinet has approved the Bill in its meeting held on 07th April, 2015 for consideration and passing in Rajya Sabha.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 824**

**ANSWERED ON 30.04.2015**

**Underutilization of funds for urban poor**

824

SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :-

Will the MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the funds allocated to provide basic facilities to urban poor are not being utilized properly, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) the number of States which have utilized less than 50 per cent of the allocated funds per years during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such underutilization along with the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
[SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO]

(a)to(c): Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation implemented the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY). Under these Schemes, no upfront State-wise annual allocation has been made. Releases have been made based on Utilization Certificates submitted by the State for each project. State-wise details of the Central Share released during each of the last three years and current year under JNNURM & RAY are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED

QUESTION NO. 824 FOR 30-04-2015

Utilization of Central Share (Released) to Provide Basic Facilities to Urban Poor along with Utilization during each of the last three years and current year under JnNURM and RAY [as on 16th April 2015] , Rs. In Crore

Sr. No.	Name of State/UT	Central Share Released (Utilized)			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Current Year
1	A&N Island	-	-	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	77.98	17.34	46.80	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	16.24	25.69	32.11	-
4	Assam	3.71	-	23.13	-
5	Bihar	128.16	-	157.96	-
6	Chandigarh (UT)	-	4.74	-	-
7	Chhattisgarh	24.40	85.55	14.31	-
8	D&N Haveli	-	-	-	-
9	Daman & DIU	-	-	-	-
10	Delhi	145.00	150.00	349.93	-
11	Goa	0.70	-	-	-
12	Gujarat	120.25	228.48	237.05	-
13	Haryana	12.43	113.51	18.10	-
14	Himachal Pradesh	7.69	15.06	-	-
15	Jammu & Kashmir	18.85	17.84	12.64	-
16	Jharkhand	-	21.32	60.25	-
17	Karnataka	17.17	319.45	141.82	-
18	Kerala	40.57	28.56	47.08	-
19	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-
20	Madhya Pradesh	46.71	86.71	113.32	-
21	Maharashtra	378.97	342.60	48.47	-
22	Manipur	10.98	-	-	-
23	Meghalaya	10.09	4.48	-	-
24	Mizoram	15.96	6.94	19.93	-
25	Nagaland	26.40	-	27.61	-
26	Orissa	62.89	52.46	77.94	-
27	Puducherry	8.08	-	-	-
28	Punjab	31.25	12.77	3.78	-
29	Rajasthan	109.74	253.25	87.57	-
30	Sikkim	9.66	6.57	-	-
31	Tamil Nadu	209.31	237.64	72.55	-
32	Telangana	102.26	8.18	48.13	-
33	Tripura	2.80	0.70	29.97	-
34	Uttar Pradesh	43.31	73.34	87.83	-
35	Uttarakhand	9.96	5.93	69.06	-
36	West Bengal	328.06	279.07	40.35	-
Grand Total :-		2,008.60	2,409.16	1,867.69	-

