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Govt releases ₹120cr to states, UTs for AMRUT

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The Ministry of Urban Development has released about Rs.120 crore to states and Union Territories for preparation of service level improvement plans (SLIP) for each of the 482 cities identified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

In the first tranche of funds under the Atal Mission, each Mission city has been given an advance assistance of Rs 25 lakh for preparation of SLIP.

Under AMRUT, the primary purpose is to cover all urban households with water supply and sewerage before taking up other projects related to storm water drains, urban transport and

provision of public and green spaces.

The SLIP for each selected city or town should identify the gaps in provision of water supply and sewerage connections and draw up detailed plans for bridging the gaps. This plan should also, include strategies for resource mobilisation including for operation and maintenance costs and plan for implementation of reforms. All the city level SLIPs will be aggregated into state annual action plan which will be sent to the Ministry of Urban Development for approval. Madhusudan Prasad, Urban Development Secretary, has written to all the Chief Secretaries urging them to send state annual action plans at the earliest.

Rs. 120 cr. for urban renewal plan

Mehboob Jeelani

NEW DELHI: A new phase of India's urban renewal began on Tuesday with the Union Urban Development Ministry announcing the release of Rs. 120 crore to the States and Union Territories. As part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the money will be directly transferred to municipal councils nationwide, something that is happening for the first time in India's urban governance.

The Ministry has identified 482 cities, and each will receive Rs. 25 lakh to pinpoint flaws (in the existing service providing mechanisms such as water supply and sewerage) and come up with solutions.

Unlike the UPA government's Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) that allowed the State governments to take municipal-level decisions, AM-

RUT claims to "empower" the city councils, encouraging the Mayors to roll out plans that generate the interest of private developers to invest in public infrastructure — if that happens, the BJP government will succeed in marking the beginning of what the Ministry has dubbed "cooperative federalism".

All the city-level plans will be "aggregated into State Annual Action Plans" and then sent to the Ministry for final approval. The Ministry is optimistic about AMRUT, believing that the "new thinking will fix the urban blight". Several NITI Aayog members are advocating strong public-private-partnerships (PPP), arguing that it will help the government achieve its goal of "inclusive growth".

During the three-day seminar International Conference on Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development in India hosted by the NITI Aayog here

on August 3, a majority of speakers stressed the need for minimal government intervention in the delivery of public services.

Sindhushree Khullar, CEO of NITI Aayog, explained the significance of tying up with private companies to build city infrastructure.

After criticising the "PPP 1.0" of the UPA time, Ms. Khullar argued that her institution was working toward "PPP 2.0," ensuring that its version would be better than the previous one: "It [PPP] is a contract," Ms. Khullar said. "But the enforcement of the mutual obligations in the contract is the area where the trust element enters; there is a certain degree of mistrust on both sides, so PPP 2.0 is under discussion to look at the contractual and concessional elements."

The 482 cities where this new approach of urbanism will be adopted are towns with a population of above one lakh.

Uttar Pradesh will get a bigger share of 60 cities, followed by West Bengal (59), Maharashtra (43), Madhya Pradesh (32) and Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and AP (31 each), Rajasthan (28), Karnataka (27), Bihar (26), Haryana (20), Punjab (16), Telangana (11), Chhattisgarh and Odisha (9 each), Kerala and Jharkhand (7 each), Uttarakhand (6), Assam and Delhi (4 each), J&K (3), Nagaland and Puducherry (2 each), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura (1 each).

Under AMRUT, the five-year Central assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore will be one-third of the project cost for cities with a population of above 10 lakh and 50 per cent of project cost for cities and towns with a population of below 10 lakh.

Rs 120 cr released for Amrut

The Ministry of Urban Development on Tuesday released about Rs 120 crore to states and Union Territories for preparing Service Level Improvement Plans (SLIPs) for 482 cities identified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (Amrut), *DHNS* reports from New Delhi.

In the first release of

funds, each Mission city has been given an advance assistance of Rs 25 lakh for preparing the action plan. Under Amrut, the primary purpose is to cover all urban households with water supply and sewerage, including septage before taking up other projects related to storm-water drains, urban transport and provision of public and green spaces.