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Title: Need to develop Nagpur in Maharashtra as a model city under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I intend to raise a very important issue pertaining to the optimal and phased development of country's important cities. It would be very necessary to scientifically revamp the existing infrastructure like transport, roads, water supply, sewerage system, civic facilities and other such allied elementary services which make a city worthwhile living. In order to achieve this objective, it is absolutely necessary that sustainable use of natural resources, securing funds for the projects, designing customized city development models and ensuring optimal use of technology. Unfortunately, due to lack of phased planning, the requisite infrastructure to achieve the desired development has not happened. The present infrastructure in some of the important cities having population of 20 lakhs and above is so haphazard and quite inadequate. The cities need to be so developed as to function engines of economic development.

The importance of availability of requisite funds and revenue model are very essential for implementing any infrastructure development of projects. Unfortunately, projects are conceived without ensuring as to how far such projects are viable for implementation. Funds are sanctioned but later such projects are found to be not viable. There being no regulatory and monitory mechanism to access the viability of the projects, funds are either misused or diverted for other purposes. Therefore, there is the absolute need for framing detailed guidelines to exercise proper control on the utilization of funds and the implementation of only such projects as are sanctioned by the Central Government.

The facilities and modern requirements are very imperative for important cities like Nagpur. Nagpur which is the fastest growing city in terms of industry, education, health services, agriculture and population wise basically suffer from lack of modern and improved infrastructure. Nagpur has experienced phenomenal growth in population which has already increased to nearly 32 lakhs. Government propose to create 10 crore houses which could be possible only if another 500 towns are created with the Central and State funding. Managing urbanization has to be done through a combination of increased investment, strengthening the frame work for monitoring and financing and a comprehensive programme for creating the required infrastructure. The current state of infrastructure facilities and service delivery is inadequate in Nagpur and there is an urgent need to formulate a strategy to meet all the essential requirements like efficient mass transport system like mono-metro rail, creation of satellite towns etc. Nagpur being a centrally located place has rightly come to be recognized as a place of strategic importance and is the geographical centre of India with advantage no other city enjoys in the country.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that Nagpur be developed as a Pilot Project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) scheme so that it becomes a Model City in the country in view of its several advantages.