JNNURM CITIES NOT SHINING

THE MISSION'S VISION IS BETTER ROADS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT,
GOOD BRIDGES,
AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

FUNDs ALLOCATION
- Rs 31,500 crore allocated as additional central assistance for UIG projects for seven years, beginning 2006-07.
- Another cheque of Rs 11,400 crore for projects under UDRSSM.
- The committed works against the above mentioned provision is Rs 27,852.07 crore for 526 projects approved under UIG and Rs 10,428.85 crore for 763 projects approved under UDSSM.
- So far, 78 projects have been completed under UIG and 114 projects under UDSSM.

THE PUNE STORY

As part of the mission, the PMC drew up the City Development Plan (CDP) with an outlay of Rs 6,643 crore with 79% of the funds coming from central and state governments. As many as 15 projects are being covered by the mission with the city roads, storm water drains, Bus Rapid Transport System, water supply, solid waste management, sewage treatment plant, river and lake improvement, slum improvement and rehabilitation.

OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY (JNNURM) Vinay Deshpande said that civil body had received funds of Rs 129.01 crore from the central and state government so far and after adding its share, has utilised Rs 10,748.28 crore.

Deshpande said the civil body had taken the steps to boost public transport, roads and slum rehabilitation. "All this would not have been possible without the mission," he added.

Build new cities

The Planning Commission's mid-term appraisal on JNNURM has said that there is need for better and consistent implementation of reforms, more emphasis on holistic urban renewal, and need for capacity at the central, state and urban local bodies to ensure effective implementation on the ground.

The state government and urban local bodies need more support and better guidance to build the financial, technical and governance capacity to sustain the momentum on creating inclusive and liveable cities, it said.

"Nearly 90% of the funds under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) and more than 90% under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme (UDDS) have been committed to water supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste management. Projects reflect the reality that most cities still have a significant backlog in the provision of basic urban services to their residents," the report said.

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WORRY LINES OVER QUALITY OF WORK

Pune: The quality of the project works under JNNURM in many cities has been criticised.

The mission of urban development has decided to appoint independent quality monitors this year.

They will be professional engineers of the rank of retired superintendent engineers and above. These monitors will carry out random inspection of infrastructure development projects being implemented in cities to check the quality.

They will provide feedback directly to the mission directorate in the ministry of urban development. Their comments and inputs will be taken in consideration while preparing the cases for the release of subsequent instalments of central support.

Monitors will not carry out inspections in the state where they have served. The reports will be filed online with the details of their visit on JNNURM websites. The system is expected to help maintain the quality and timely completion of projects. Such a mechanism is necessary. But it is also late now as many urban local bodies have nearly completed their projects," said RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar.

REPORTS WRITTEN UNDER THE AEGIS OF CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT MEDIA AGENCIES.