



# RCUES LUCKNOW NEWSLETTER (A Quarterly Publication)

VOL. IX & X No. 4 & 1

January - June, 2012

**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (RCUES), LUCKNOW**

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## **PROGRAMMES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

### **National Seminar on Ethics and Social Accountability in Urban Governance**

A two-day National Seminar on Ethics and Social Accountability in Urban Governance was organized on February 3 & 4, 2012 at Lucknow. The delegates from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh presented their papers and enriched the deliberations. In all, 42 participants consisting of academicians, urban administrators, researchers, civil society members and non-government sector actively participated in the discussions. Sri Durga Shanker Mishra, Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh addressed the valedictory session. The main recommendations of the Seminar were as follows:

- Democratic decentralization in urban administration needs to be promoted through creation and strengthening of Area Sabha and Ward Committee with active involvement of civil societies for development planning and budgeting.
- The District Planning Committee should be made more effective in development planning while the concept of district government may be promoted through constitutional amendment and providing local governments the constitutional status.
- There should be formation and effective functioning of Ethical Committee in each urban local body while there should be Ethic Commissioner at state level for ensuring ethical codes/standards and social accountability in delivery of public services.
- There should be a culture of ethics and social accountability while the mind-set of public needs to be changed with political and administrative obligations and commitment towards performing duties.
- Enactment of Public Services Provision Act and other legal provisions is imperative to ensure ethics and social accountability in urban governance. The mechanism of social audit may further be promoted and strengthened in administration of urban development and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.
- The corruption issues need to be addressed through strengthening the position of Ombudsman and Lokayukt. The public needs to be made more sensitized towards the corruption issues while the role of media should be more creative in raising the ethical issues in governance.
- Relationship between political and executive wings needs attention while capacity building of elected representatives of urban local governments is imperative to make them sensitized and orient regarding developmental programmes, schemes and also extending their cooperation to officials of ULB in developmental planning and implementation of programmes and projects.

The seminar was coordinated by Dr. U.B. Singh, Joint Director in association with Dr. A.K. Singh, Assistant Director.

### **Workshop on Public Private Partnership in Urban Development**

A one day workshop on Public Private Partnership in Urban Development was organized on February 22, 2012. The programme was designed for the officials of Jharkhand. In all 43 chairpersons and officials from the municipalities and state government participated in the workshop. The programme was inaugurated by Sri Nirmal Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Government of Jharkhand. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. U.B. Singh, Joint Director.

**Prof. Nishith Rai resumed the office of Director of the Regional Centre w.e.f. May 23, 2012**

# PROGRAMMES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

## PROGRAMME UNDER RAY

### Regional Workshop on Rajiv Awas Yojana

The Regional Centre organized a two day Regional Workshop on Rajiv Awas Yojana: Introduction, Concept and Approach on Jan.30-31, 2012 at Kolkata. The major objective of the Regional Workshop was to sensitize the delegates with the various aspects of Rajiv Awas Yojana and the various guidelines issued by the Ministry relating to planning and implementation of the scheme. Sri Debashis Bose, Project Director, CMU, KUSP and Ex-officio Jt. Secretary, Department of Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. While addressing the delegates at the Workshop, Sri Bose observed that the Rajiv Awas Yojana launched by Govt. of India for the urban slums is a unique scheme in the sense that it adopts the whole slum approach and focuses on the upgradation, redevelopment / rehabilitation as well as prevention of slums. Sri Gautam Ghosh, Director, Local Bodies, Govt. of West Bengal was the Guest of Honour at the Inaugural Session. Smt. Anandita Mukerjee, Economist from Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, New Delhi enlightened the participants with the vision and thinking of the Ministry pertaining to RAY..



*Sri Debashis Bose, Project Director, CMU, KUSP and Ex-officio, Jt. Secretary, Dept. of Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal lighting the lamp at the Inaugural Session*

Valedictory session was presided over by Sri Debashis Bose, Project Director, CMU, KUSP and Ex-officio Jt. Secretary, Department of Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal. Overall, 39 delegates comprising of Director, SUDA, Additional Director, Municipal Affairs, Municipal Commissioner, Joint Director and Deputy Director, Local Bodies, Superintendent Engineer, Ex. Engineer, Assistant / Sub-Engineers, Urban Planners, experts from CMU / PMU/PIU from eight states including West Bengal, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar and Jharkhand actively participated in the Workshop.

Dr. Urmila Bagga, Joint Director and Dr. A.K. Singh, Asst. Director jointly coordinated the Regional Workshop.

## PROGRAMMES UNDER UPA

### National Workshop on Urban Street Vendors Policy & Model Bill

A one day national workshop on Urban Street Vendors Policy and Model Bill was organized on March 3, 2012 at Ranchi. The delegates from Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, Mizoram and Jharkhand participated and enriched the discussions. In all 50 chairpersons and officials attended the workshop. Smt. Rama Khalko, Hon'ble Mayor of Ranchi inaugurated the workshop and Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Government of Jharkhand addressed the delegates at the valedictory session.

The workshop was coordinated jointly by Dr. U.B. Singh, Joint Director and Dr. Rajeev Narayan, Deputy Director.

### Training Programme on Community Development and Empowerment

A two-day training programme for the community development officials of municipalities in Jharkhand was organized on February 23 and 24, 2012 at Ranchi. In all 25 officials actively participated in the programme. The participants were exposed to various strategies and approaches adopted in centrally sponsored schemes for developing community development network and empowering the urban poor.

The programme was directed by Dr. U.B. Singh, Joint Director.



## State Level Orientation Training Programme for Newly Appointed Community Organizers of Odisha

The Centre organized three State level Orientation Training Programme for Newly Appointed Community Organizers of Odisha at Puri, on January 18-19, 2012, January 20-21, 2012 and March 16-17, 2012. The objective of the above training programmes was to orient the newly appointed community organizers on various aspects of poverty alleviation and programmes related to urban poor. In all 36, 41 and 37 participants, participated in the training programmes respectively. The programmes were coordinated by Dr. Rajeev Narayan, Deputy. Director, RCUES, Lucknow.

## State Level Workshop on Community Development, Empowerment and NULM for West Bengal

The Centre organized two State level Workshops on Community Development, Empowerment and NULM for West Bengal at Kolkata on 8 February 2012 and 9 February 2012 respectively. The objective of the above workshops was to discuss the problems being faced in implementing poverty alleviation programmes and their remedies. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri M. N. Pradhan, Director, SUDA Govt. of West Bengal. Dr. U. B. Singh, Joint Director welcomed the guests and Dr. Rajeev Narayan, Deputy Director and Course Director briefed about the programme. The Chief Guest Sri M, N. Pradhan in his inaugural address said that there is an urgent need to strengthen the Urban Local Bodies to shoulder the growing challenges of urban poverty alleviation.

The participants of the workshops consisted of People's Representatives, Municipal Officials and officials engaged in poverty alleviation. In all 29 and 31 participants participated in the workshops respectively.

The workshops were coordinated by Dr. Rajeev Narayan, Deputy. Director, RCUES, Lucknow.

## PROGRAMMES UNDER USHA

Government of India has launched Urban Statistics for HR and Assessments (USHA) as a scheme for the development and maintenance of a national data base, MIS and knowledge repository relating to urban poverty, slums, housing, construction and other urbanization related statistics. The four pillars of USHA include (1) Data base, including MIS and sample surveys (2) Action research (3) Impact assessment and (4) Capacity building/training. Thus USHA coordinates applied research and capacity building activities pertaining to urban poverty, slums, housing, construction and other urbanization related statistics. The capacity building / training component is so important that 10 percent of the scheme budget has been allotted to these activities. In view of the growing importance of the capacity building and orientation to the DES officials and municipal officials, the Regional and State level programmes were organized by the Centre under USHA Cell. The programmes include Slum Survey MIS, HSUI, BRIKS- MIS and BCCI. The details are as under.

Dr. Richa Varmani, Joint Director and Dr. Anjali Mishra, Deputy. Director, RCUES jointly coordinated all the programmes.

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Date	Venue	No. of Participants
1	State Level Training Workshop on BRIKS, BRIKS-MIS, BCCI & HSUI	Jan. 6-7, 2012	Lucknow	44
2	State Level Training Workshop on BRIKS, BRIKS-MIS, BCCI & HSUI	Jan. 9-10, 2012	Lucknow	41
3	Regional Workshop on BRIKS, BRIKS-MIS, BCCI	Feb. 17, 2012	Bhopal	23
4	Regional Workshop on Slum Survey, Slum MIS & HSUI	Feb. 18, 2012	Bhopal	23
5	Regional Workshop on BRIKS, BRIKS - MIS and BCCI	March 16, 2012	Kolkata	6
6	Regional Workshop on Slum Survey, Slum - MIS & HSUI	March 17, 2012	Kolkata	6

## STATE LEVEL ORIENTATION TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS FOR GOVT. OF ASSAM

The Regional Centre under the auspices of Government of Assam organized a state level nine day residential orientation training programme on Development Statistics from May 14 to 22, 2012 for DES Officials of Assam.

The programme had the following main objectives:

- To discuss the need, importance and role of statistics in planning and development;
- To explain the national / state statistical system and to examine the operational issues and problems;
- To orient the officials regarding the procedure, methods, techniques, tools and statistical packages for compilation, collection, data processing, analyzing the data and presentation and dissemination of statistics;
- To discuss relevant statistical parameters, indicators and indices such as human development index, carrying capacity analysis, environmental impact assessment, poverty measurement etc.
- To elaborate the descriptive statistics along with analysis of time series data, applications of statistical techniques and tools; and
- To suggest policy measures for strengthening of state level statistical system.

Prof. M.K. Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University during his inaugural address strongly emphasized that there is an imperative need to mainstream the north-east region in the Indian economy for overall national building and development of the country.

Sri Harbinder Singh, Deputy Director General, NSSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI as Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session highlighted the imperative need of developing new data series, district level statistical indicators and strengthening of state level statistical system for addressing emerging information needs.

Sri P.K. Bhattacharjya, Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam as the Special Guest of Honour at the Valedictory session emphasized upon the crucial need of training and capacity building of state and district level officials engaged in collection, processing, analyzing and dissemination of vital statistics.

Dr. Praveen Shukla, Director, NSSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI as the Guest of Honour highlighted that state and district level statistical system should be strengthened in order to bridge the data gaps.

An exposure visit to Agra was also organized for the participating delegates with a view to have experience sharing and cross learning with the DES officials functioning at regional and district levels in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

A total of 23 DES officials including Deputy Directors, Senior Research Officers, Statistical Officers and Inspectors of Statistics participated in the programme.

Dr. Urmila Bagga, Joint Director and Dr. A.K. Singh, Assistant Director jointly coordinated the programme.



*Chief Guest Sri Harbinder Singh, Deputy Director-General NSSO, GOI, Sri P.K. Bhattacharjya, Director, DES, Govt. of Assam, Dr. Praveen Shukla, Director, NSSO, GOI and Dr. Urmila Bagga, Joint Director, RCUES, Lucknow at the Valedictory Session*

Published by :

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