



## ***Slum and JJ Department (MCD)***

### **At a Glance**

#### **Functions**

The Slum and *Jhuggi Jhopri* (JJ) Department under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is responsible for implementation of various schemes and programs to provide minimum basic civic amenities and resettlement of squatter families.

#### **Findings**

- ☞ About 99% of slum clusters are present on government-owned land, primarily of the union government.
- ☞ Till March 2002 about 40,707 squatter families from various JJ clusters have been relocated.
- ☞ As against a target of development of 75,000 sites & service plots for relocation of *jhuggis*, the Slum & JJ Department could only achieve 45% of the target. It has a pendency of more than 1.5 lac *jhuggies* for relocation.
- ☞ The Department of Urban Development continued to release grants to the MCD without ensuring achievement of targets.
- ☞ Deposits received from the land-owning agencies by the Slum & JJ Department were kept in banks and the interest accrued was diverted to non-plan expenditure of the Department, in effect, to the salaries of the staff.

#### **Reforms**

- ☞ Emphasis should be laid on prevention of future encroachment and in-situ upgradation of existing slums.
- ☞ Measures to stop future encroachment should include lapse of encroached land (if any encroachments are not removed within three months) to the Delhi government; sale of excess government land to private parties and deregulation of the Delhi Rent Control Act for the provision of cheap rental housing.

- ☞ In situ rehabilitation of existing slum clusters based on the lines of *Dharavi* in Mumbai--allow private residential development on encroached land with allotment to existing slum dwellers and sale to other families.
- ☞ The Slum & JJ Department's work depends on the existence of Slum & JJs! Prepare a time-bound plan for the in-situ rehabilitation of slums and then merge the Slum & JJ Department with the Urban Development Department for further upgradation of slums.

### **Delhi slums, a virtual tinderbox in summer: DFS chief**

Tribune News Service

New Delhi, April 30

The increasing number of hutments covered with tarpaulin in slum clusters, congested residential areas and loose electric wires have made the national Capital a virtual tinderbox. The Capital records

more fires, especially slum fires, than any other major cities in the country. Generally, fire breaks out in the summer due to the hot and dry climate, coupled with the faulty town planning that has left inadequate infrastructure. Added to

this is the lack of awareness among its 15 million residents. The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) chief, Mr R.C. Sharma, says "The Capital turns into a virtual tinderbox during the summer. Compared to Delhi, other major cities like Chen

### **Special provisions for night-shelters**

Staff Reporter/New Delhi

The Slum & JJ Department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has made special provisions in its Budget estimates for night-shelters, community halls, toilet blocks and improvement of katras in Sadar

Pahar Ganj and city zone areas. The Slum & JJ Department is all set to adopt e-governance. Presenting the Budget in the House of the Corporation, standing committee vice-chairman Ashok Jain said the Slum

### **Unauthorised slum-dwellers to pay service tax**

Rajesh Kumar/ New Delhi

Residents of unauthorised slum settlements will have to pay service tax every month. The expert committee on property tax reforms has recommended

that the MCD should collect service charges between Rs 10 and Rs 20 per month from each dwelling unit. Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had