

Minister Shyamkumar stresses on necessity of building bye-laws



DIPR
Imphal, Sept. 16,

Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development (MAHUD) Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar had called on the need for proper implementation of building bye-laws for the safety of human lives and proper town planning. He was speaking at a one-day workshop on the theme 'Draft Manipur Municipality Building Bye-Laws, 2018 and Local Area Planning' jointly organised by the MAHUD and Town Planning departments at the City Convention Centre, Palace Compound, Imphal yesterday.

Addressing the gathering MAHUD Minister Th. Shyamkumar said the building bye-laws set standards for building work to ensure the health and safety of people in and around buildings by setting requirements for building design and construction. The requirements and standards are based on current scientific and engineering knowledge, experience, techniques and modern methods of construction in the planning, designing and construction activities of buildings in the respective zone, he added. He further said there is a need to follow the regulations and guidelines of the building bye-laws of the State by every citizen to avoid untoward incident as Manipur lies in high seismic zone and to avoid natural and artificial calamities. The Minister also took the example of the recent incidents where many lost their lives due to avoidance of building bye-laws. He added that such incidents can be avoided as building bye-laws are framed paying due regard to the weather conditions, local construction practice, availability of materials and other similar factors.

N. Gokumar, Director MAHUD Department and Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Department said that as per the advisory of the Government of India all the 27 urban local bodies of Manipur have to switch on to online building planning approval system (OBPAS) by March 2019 and for that a firm has already been assigned for the development of the software. He said before the introduction of the OBPAS there is a need for updating the existing building bye-laws

of the State.

He said the one-day workshop is organised to welcome the suggestions and opinions of the public which could be incorporated in the existing building bye-laws with flexibility for any changes. The Government of India has also issued an advisory that the building bye-laws need to be modified in tune with the Model Building Bye-Laws 2016 of the Ministry, he added. MAHUD Director said that there will be many discussions before finalising the State building bye-laws. He informed that 23 participants representing engineering institutes, architects forum (who have applied online) and executive officers of all 27 urban local bodies are participating in the workshop for the brainstorming session. He also stated that a high level technical team will be soon formed to finalise on the technicalities to decide on the maximum height of the high rise buildings among others. He also informed that all the discussions and presentations made in the workshop will be uploaded in the official website of the Manipur Urban Development Agency (muda.mn.gov).

Five member delegates from Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) headed by R. Srinivas, Head, Metropolitan and Union Territories Division, TCPO, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, Sandeep Roy, Assistant Town and Country Planner (ATCP), Ms D. Blessy, ATCP, Harpal Dave, ATCP, Bhaskar S. ATCP thoroughly discussed on the pilot formulations of the Local Area Plans (LAP) and Town Planning Schemes (TPS). They also gave suggestions to the Draft Manipur Municipality Corporation Building Bye-Laws, 2018 presented by the State officials.

The workshop focused on the modification of the State building bye-laws in line with the Model Building Bye-Laws 2016 prepared by the Ministry. The discussion included topics like height of high rise buildings, rain water harvesting facility in the buildings, fire safety norms, smooth movement for differently-abled persons in Government buildings, sanitation facilities including segregated toilets for women among others. Union Minister of State

(Independent Charge)

Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri on July 9, 2018 had launched the Local Area Plan (LAP) and Town Plan Schemes (TPS) for 25 smart cities in the country to fast track the resolution of area based infrastructure issues.

An amount of Rs 50 crore will be provided as Central assistance at the rate of Rs 2 crore per city for the identified 25 cities for preparing LAP and TPS. The Central assistance will be released in three installments; 20 percent with submission of preliminary proposal, 40 percent during submission of draft plan and remaining 40 percent during submission of final plan.

The 25 identified cities are Greater Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, Vadodra, Indore, Chennai, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Warangal, Pune, Varanasi, Jaipur, Amritsar, Patna, Faridabad, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Raipur, Panaji, Shimla, New Kolkata, Srinagar, Dehradun, Aizawl, Gangtok and Imphal.

The LAP and TPS has been formulated under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) to enable planning for developing infrastructure in the brownfield areas (those parts of the city that are already developed but not able to sustain the pressure on the existing infrastructure) and the greenfield areas (periphery of the city that is prone to haphazard growth and development), respectively.

Existing areas will have to be redeveloped by preparing LAP while TPS will be implemented for planned urban expansion in greenfield areas. LAP and TPS are the physical planning tools that supplement the retrofitting and greenfield strategies of the Smart Cities Mission. The exercise of preparing Local Area Plan and Town Planning Scheme is expected to be completed in a period of one year; the preliminary proposal in two months and the draft plan in 10 months. Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) will provide hand holding support to the State nodal agency and circulations of guidelines for the scheme. The workshop was also attended by M. Joy Singh, Secretary, MAHUD Department, Uttam Singh, Joint Director MAHUD, officials of PDA, MAHUD and Town Planning.

NEFIS organizes candle light vigil at DU over the lynching of youth in Manipur, communal clashes in Assam!

IT News
Imphal, Sept 16,

North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) organized a candle light vigil yesterday evening at North Campus, Delhi University against the communal incidents which recently occurred in Assam and Manipur.

Individuals from different communities of North-East along with those from the other parts of the country also participated in the programme. A minute's silence was also observed for the deceased.

It should be noted that recently communal clashes occurred in Tinsukia district of Assam over a facebook post, subsequent to which provocative rumors were circulated on Social Media and deliberate attempts were made by some vested interests to destroy social fabric of the region, and which have resulted in communal clashes.

In Manipur too, a youth from minority Muslim community



was killed by a mob over suspicion of vehicle theft.

"It is clear from such incidents that conscious efforts are on to sow hatred among different communities in the North-East in order to reap rich political dividends", the statement said. The NEFIS targeted the present government saying that BJP Government has come to power at the centre and in various states in the North-East

attempts have been made to communalize the atmosphere of region.

"Such communal atmosphere has been created in order to conceal the underdevelopment of the region, which fuels hatred towards other communities and results in brutal confrontations such as the present incidents. Such incidents also occur due to

the poor functioning of the police system as well as fallout of the absence of pro-people policies in the region", the statement said.

NEFIS demanded a provision for protection of minorities and urged the government should clamp down on rumor mongering and seriously deal with vested interests wishing to destroy social fabric of the region.

Special probe team formed to crack Rewari gangrape

Agency
Haryana Sept 16,

Three days after a 19-year-old was gangraped in Haryana's Rewari district, the police on Saturday said they have formed an eight-member special investigation team (SIT) to probe the incident.

The police also announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of the absconding trio. On Saturday, Haryana DGP B S Sandhu said, "All three accused have been identified. Among them is a man who is in Army unit in Rajasthan. He was on holiday and has to report there this evening. We are getting a warrant issued for him and hope he will be arrested soon."

While the FIR registered by the victim on Thursday had accused three men from her village for the crime, her father has since stated that "eight or 10 others" were also present.

The father, who works as a physical training instructor at a private school in Rewari district, said the accused left her at the local bus stop after the crime and informed him on phone that she was unwell. "After we picked her up, she told us what happened, and that she recognised three of them from our village. They are named in the FIR. She also said eight or 10 other boys were also there. Although she could not see them, she could hear them coming and going."

On involvement of others, Nazneen Bhasin, Superintendent of Police, Nuh, who is leading the SIT, said, "We will look into that as well. So far, positive identification of anyone else (apart from the three) has not been done."

Besides Bhasin herself, the SIT includes two DSPs, two sub-inspectors, and two sub-inspectors. "We have formed



multiple teams working on nabbing the accused. We request the public to share any information that could help in their arrest. We are announcing a reward of Rs 1 lakh for anyone who can provide such information," she said.

The incident had occurred on September 12 when the victim, a first-year BSc student, was headed to coaching classes.

In the FIR, she has stated that soon after her father dropped her at the bus stand around 8 am, two of the accused met her and made her drink water. "I

became unconscious; they put me in a car and took me to a well," the FIR states. When she regained consciousness, there was "a boy (also from the same village)...at the well. Upon my crying, they made me drink something and I became unconscious...they gangraped me."

Thereafter, the complaint states, the accused dropped her at the same bus stand and rang up her family. Meanwhile, the victim's parents have alleged negligence on part of the police. "Those criminals came to our home (and

purportedly threatened them to take back the FIR), and still the police could not arrest them," the victim's mother said. "They were busy making us run around to register the FIR."

On the family's allegations about delay in registering the FIR, and that personnel at the women's police station in Rewari initially questioned authenticity of their claims, DGP Sandhu said, "If there is any error, or negligence, by police personnel, ADG-Rewari will conduct an inquiry and action will be taken accordingly."

SP Bhasin said, "Soon as the incident was brought to light, raiding parties were constituted but as per mobile forensics (tracking cellphones), they (accused) had fled the same day." On Saturday, senior medical officer at the hospital where the victim is admitted said, "Her condition has improved today. Her vitals are normal, and she is undergoing counselling."

In Delhi, the National Commission for Women condemned the incident and asked the Haryana police chief to give an update on the probe.

Ramdas Athawale: I am not suffering from rising fuel prices as I am a minister

Agency
New Delhi Sept 16,

In the wake of surging fuel prices across the country, Union Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale said he is not affected by the price hike because he is a minister. Referring to the allowances he gets as union minister, Athawale told reporters: "I am not suffering from rising fuel prices as I am a minister. I may suffer if I lose my ministerial post." The union minister acknowledged the people's suffering due to

incessant rise in petrol and diesel prices and admitted that it is the government's duty to reduce them. "It's understandable that people are suffering from rising fuel prices and it's the duty of the government to reduce them," Athawale said. Athawale, whose Republican Party is a BJP ally, assured that the BJP led central government is formulating ways to bring down the fuel prices. However, he also underlined that the prices for fuel can be reduced if the respective state



governments cut their taxes. "The price of fuel can be reduced if the states cut the tax on it. The Centre is seriously working on the issue," he said.