

SECTION - B

CHAPTER- VIII

Urban Slums – Overview

8.1 Slum Population and its growth

It has been observed that the most disadvantaged section of society or the rural population which migrate to urban areas in search of employment or better conditions of living find no place to live in and end up in squatter settlements or in the unhygienic housing clusters in cities. These clusters having insufficient facilities of hygiene, toilets, drinking water, sanitation etc. are termed as slums. During the last few years the growth of slums in the urban areas specially the big cities has become a major problem for the planners and policy makers. To have an idea of problems of slums, the planners and policy makers should have the appropriate data.

The data on urban slums is available from Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (RGI) and National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The RGI had tried to collect the slum data for the first time in Census of India, 2001 and has provided the information in respect of the cities having urban population of 50,000 or more. Recently, Registrar General's Office has been requested to undertake Census of Slums in the cities/towns of size 20,000-50,0000. The NSSO conducts quinquennially the sample survey on Slums in India as a part of its exercise on collection of data on housing conditions. NSSO had conducted two such surveys in 1993 and 2002 and have provided the results. Apart from these, TCPO has also estimated the slum population for 2001 on the basis of the 1991 census data.

According to NSSO, the total number of urban slums have gone down from 56311 in 1993 to 51688 in 2002. 36% of urban slums were “declared slums” in 1993 while 50.6% of urban slums have been declared as “notified slums” in 2002. 43.92% of households living in slums were found to be living in declared slums in 1993 while in 2002 65.1% of households living in slums were in notified slums. The total number of households living in slums have increased from 5.93 million in 1993 to 8.23 million in 2002. The NSS survey in 2002 have also found that 35% of slums exist on private land while the 63% of slums are on public land at All India level.

As per the Census of India, 2001, 640 towns spread over 26 States/UTs have reported existence of slums. It is reported that 42.6 million people consisting of 8.2 million households are living in slums of these towns. Nine States/UTs have not identified any slums. It is a coincidence that both NSSO in 2002 and Census of India, 2001 found that every seventh person in the urban India is a slum dweller. The Census of India has also identified that 17.4% (7.4 million) Scheduled Castes and 2.4% (1.00 million) Scheduled Tribes live in the identified slums in India. The proportion of Scheduled Castes in Slums is higher than the proportion of Scheduled Castes in non slum areas (10.8%) and urban areas (11.8%) of the country.