

ANNEXURE - 12B

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON 'INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT'

Date and Time: February 23, 2006 at 4.00 PM
Venue: BMC Conference Hall
List of Participants: List enclosed separately

This focus group discussion on Mission Area 'Infrastructure Development' was attended by more than 25 participants. Significant and active representation was observed from several non-governmental entities (i.e. wider group of stakeholders) on issues concerning the existing system and condition of infrastructure and strategies to upgrade and ensure planned development. Senior BMC officials were present during the meeting and witnessed discussions. The Deputy Commissioner (Commissioner-in-Charge) has briefed the participants on salient features of the JNNURM and pertinent initiatives adopted by BMC in achieving the stated objectives.

The Consulting Team of CCI made a presentation to the participating members on the situation analysis (existing condition), SWOT analysis of the Mission Area and key issues identified based on earlier stakeholders' consultations. The discussions were guided by the Agenda Points circulated in advance along with the invitation letters.

Additionally, the CCI team put in place an analytical framework for debate and discussion on the city's inherent strengths, latent weaknesses, opportunities available and imminent and progressive threats for each identified sector in the 'Infrastructure Development' Mission Area. Study aids such as pertinent maps, SWOT analysis charts were made available to the stakeholders to enable them not only to effectively contribute, but also to specifically record their representations on the charts for subsequent incorporation into the study. Following are the discussion points of the Focus Group Discussions:

1. Detailed discussions were also held on issues that surround the present condition of infrastructure, plausible reasons for deterioration of the assets provided, imminent improvements and progressive planning required to ensure sustainability
2. The wider group of stakeholders appreciated the level of reconnaissance performed by the study team in identifying the problems, issues and options available to achieve cost-effective remedies/solutions
3. The participants were also of the consensus that a multitude of departments/agencies were involved in infrastructure maintenance and that there is an imminent requirement to restructure the organization to install BMC at the helm with relevant departments/agencies providing requisite technical support in planning, design, implementation, commissioning and O&M
4. Encroachments were identified as one of the major detrimental factors to infrastructure sustainability with respect to storm water drains, roads, pavements and related
5. As specified earlier, the participants reiterated their interest in providing a note on their recommendations, which the BMC and the team welcomed and appreciated
6. The Vision & Mission Statement (Infrastructure Development) were also deliberated in detail and modifications addressed by non-government stakeholders incorporated and approved in unison by all participants

7. All participants indicated their interest to continue their participation for the next series of focus group discussions on other Mission Area, namely Environment Improvement and Urban Poor / Slum Upgrading

BMC officials thanked the participants and requested their participation in all stages of preparation and implementation of the City Development Plan. The CCI team also sincerely appreciated the efforts made by the invitees in contributing effectively to the discussions.