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सचिव भारत सरकार

Secretary to the Government of India

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D.O.No. N-11025/89/2011-UCD

15th March, 2013

Dear

The Constitution (Seventy-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 confers 18 functions given in the Twelfth Schedule to the Urban Local Bodies. One of the important functions is provision of street lighting which is listed at Entry No. 17 of the Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution. Street lighting is a particularly critical concern for public authorities due to its strategic importance for economic & social activity as well as enhanced security of citizens. Street lighting not only improves safety conditions for vehicular traffic and pedestrians but most importantly helps in improving the safety and security of citizens, particularly that of women.

2. Research and evidence suggests that improved street lighting deters potential offenders by increasing the risk that they will be identified easily and recognized while committing crimes. Needless to say, we feel safer in a well-lit street. Some of the possible benefits are that police presence becomes more visible, thus leading to prevention of crime; improved Street lighting can encourage more people to walk at night, which also increases informal surveillance. The recent Report of the Committee on Amendments to Criminal Law (Justice Verma Committee) has also underscored the importance of street lighting in the context of safety and security of women. It has stated that **"Street lighting everywhere would provide more safety since dark areas are more prone to facilitate crimes. There is great wisdom in the words of the American Judge Louis Brandeis, that 'Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman'"**.

3. In a recent meeting of the Committee of Secretaries held on 23.1.2013, in the wake of the horrific rape incident that took place in Delhi on 16.12.2012, a decision has been taken that **"There is a need for increased focus on street lighting in public places. Civic Bodies must undertake a review of the existing facilities and strengthen these wherever required."** I therefore, request that a thorough review of the existing facilities of street lighting may be undertaken by Civic Bodies / Municipalities / Urban Local Bodies, and based on the findings of the review; necessary improvements may please be made, wherever required.

4. New energy efficient technologies and design can cut street lighting costs dramatically; these savings can eliminate or reduce the need for new generating plants and provide the capital for alternative energy solutions for populations in remote areas. These cost savings can also enable municipalities to expand street lighting to additional areas, increasing access to lighting in low-income and other under-served areas.

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5. There is tremendous potential to improve lighting quality while reducing energy use, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions - through energy-efficient retrofits for street lighting and improved operation and maintenance (O&M) practices. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power has brought out a comprehensive set of guidelines covering the various aspects of energy efficient street lighting and the methodologies to implement it. These guidelines also intend to increase the awareness about the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Code of Practice for energy efficient street lighting. A copy of these guidelines is enclosed. These guidelines may also be accessed at <http://beeindia.in/content.php?page=schemes/schemes.php?id=6>. I request you to ensure that the above guidelines are followed and implemented by the Civic Bodies / Urban Local Bodies in your State.

6. It is imperative to adopt strengthened measures for putting in place energy efficient and expanded street lighting system in order to contain crime against women and for providing an environment of safety and security for citizenry in general. I would appreciate an early feedback along with an Action Taken Report on revamping street lighting systems of your State/ Union Territory.

With regards,

OFFICE COPY

Yours sincerely



Encl: As above

(Sudhir Krishna)

To Urban Development Secretaries of all States/UTs