

## **Better coordination between municipal corporations and DLB are need of hour: Kota Mayor**

**Kota, September 23, 2015**

All mayors should be called by the Department of Local Bodies (DLB) on time to time to discuss their issues and grievances so that development work is not hampered. There is need of better coordination between DLB and Municipal Corporations to efficiently deliver the services. Many works are not implemented because officials are afraid of rules and guidelines which are defined by the department. He was speaking in a conference organised by the CUTS International with the support of The Asia Foundation on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015 at Kota City.

He talked about 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment and said that urban local bodies need to strengthen as per constitutional provisions and elected representatives should be empowered accordingly. Mayor also mentioned that DLB must also share best practices of ULBs related to the campaigns and programs with other mayors so that they can adopt the same and enhance the quality of the public services. He added that that in Kota Municipal Corporation, resource crunch is a main problem and human resources are seriously lacking and at the place of electric engineers and other staff they are just solving the purpose with civil engineers and this must be taken at DLB level for solution.

Deputy Mayor, Sunita Vyas said that devolution of powers must happen at ward councilors level mayors as well since they are also public representatives and an important link in the service delivery process. She further added that there are so many problems other than sanitation problems in cities.

Sanchita Bishnoi, Additional Director, Department of Local Bodies, Govt. of Rajasthan said that many decisions are being taken at department level to improve the efficiency of ULBs. Department is going to appoint 1947 post of various functionaries which will fill acute shortage of staff and further help ULBs in improving their functions. She also suggested to Mayors for being courageous and take strong decisions in their board meetings which has huge powers with them rather than looking at department for all the support. Further discussion will be done with the department regarding all the concerns of mayors and to organize exclusive consultations with Mayors of MCs. She also added that very soon DLB will have MoU with CUTS for capacity building of the ULB staff including Mayors and Deputy Mayors and hope that initiatives under this partnership will prove to be fruitful.

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS international referred a recent ranking of Indian cities based on sanitation condition in which cities of Rajasthan is in poor condition. He also referred the 74th constitutional amendment and inability of Cities like Jaipur and Kota which is growing even faster than Jaipur to provide quality services. He said that devolution of powers to the ULBs and enhancing civic engagement are need of the hour so that Mayors are empowered and Municipalities are strengthened.

Sumit Singh, Regional Director of All India Institute of Local Self Government, Jodhpur shared his experiences related to a peoples campaign of Jodhpur named JOSH, which succeeded only because of strong will power of Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, local administration including District Collector, Divisional Commissioner. Soumya Chaturvedula, Program Coordinator of ICLEI –Local Government for Sustainability, New Delhi also shared her experience of working in Shakti Nagar in Kota regarding door to door collection of solid waste and said that local people are highly interested in the initiative but it need institutionalization by Kota Municipality for its greater success. Representatives of various municipal

corporations also shared their views and said that all the urban development programs and its beneficiaries must be involved in sanitation and other programmes for success.

Objectives of the Mayors Conference was presented by Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator who informed that this conference is second in the series and will be continue in coming year. This is an exclusive platform for Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Rajasthan state to discuss the issues of urban local governance.

***For more information please contact at***

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