

'BMP tax pie eaten by other agencies'

DH NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE: Stating that the City is exporting about Rs 30,000 crore worth of software through sheer brainpower, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department Principal Secretary M R Sreenivasamurthy said that it is a paradox that none of this revenue is getting translated into taxes.

Delivering a lecture on 'Some issues in managing mega cities,' organised by the Gandhi Peace Foundation here on Sunday, he said, the City also had one of the biggest garment industries, again generating a lot of revenue. "The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) is presently collecting only Rs 300 crore as tax, despite the fact that there is so much wealth available in the City," he said, adding that this was a serious aspect as the City faced infrastructure shortage because of this reason.

He said, most of the taxes that should ideally have come under the BMP like Motor Vehicle Tax and the like, had not been included. Mr Srinivasamurthy also said that with the City heading towards becoming a Metropolis, it was important to figure out the kind of ad-

FACT FILE

- Bangalore is growing at 3.2 per cent per year
- Over 34 per cent population in Karnataka lives in urban areas
- Tamil Nadu is most urbanised city in India with 44 per cent living in urban areas
- There are 3,400 urban centres in the country
- Out of the 300 Class One cities in India, only 35 of them are mega cities with over 10 lakh population
- Bangalore is the only mega city in Karnataka, while Mysore comes close to being called so
- Around 10 to 19 per cent of Bangalore population lives in slums

SUGGESTIONS

- Sub-urbanisation; Build townships a few kilometres away from the City
- Urban planners can also go for high rise buildings concept
- Citizens can choose between the two
- Convert areas like Chikpet, Ranasinghpeth, Akkipet and the like as commercial utilities
- BMP to collect all taxes that it should be doing
- Invite private participation for creating parking spaces
- Develop good transport network, without regard for profits or losses

ministration required to man this huge body.

One aspect that the Government had neglected while conceptualising Greater Bangalore was the plight of the urban poor.

"Since there has been just a radial growth of the

City, the problems of urban poor are getting compounded," he said, adding various other aspects like provision of water, power, sanitation, education, health, etc, took prime importance when talking about Greater Bangalore