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NEWSPAPERS

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DUSIB ex-CEO tells chief secy no dereliction of duty

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Days after he was transferred from Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), senior bureaucrat K Mahesh has written to chief secretary Naresh Kumar responding to the charges of negligence levelled against him.

In his letter, Mahesh, who has now been posted as special director (training) in Union Territory Civil Services (UTCS), said he should have been given an opportunity to explain obviating the need for action against him. He added that he was not responding to his transfer per se but to the reasons of dereliction of duty for action against him. The officer has also requested the chief secretary to place his response before the LG.

When asked, Mahesh refused to comment on the letter. No immediate reaction was available from the government.

Mahesh was moved to UTCS on December 26, three days after lieutenant governor VK Saxena paid a surprise visit to night shelters near ISBT Kashmere Gate and Hanuman

Temple and found lack of accommodation and toilet facilities there. The LG had also found lack of cleanliness at the shelter homes.

Sources said the officer was transferred after he failed to provide adequate toilet facilities to slum dwellers in Jailorwala Bagh area where Delhi Development Authority is coming up with a world-class nursery.

Responding to the charge that 5,000 homeless people were inhabited in the Yamuna Pushta area against the total capacity of 600 at the night shelters, Mahesh claimed that the shelter homes in the area could collectively accommodate a total of 2,115 people.

He added that a large number of beggars and drug addicts prefer to stay in open "for receiving donations, including food items, blankets, woollens, cash, etc, during winter season" and are reluctant to shift to shelter homes despite availability of accommodation.

On the charges of "consistent dereliction of duties" by him which had resulted in delay of a nursery project by three months, Mahesh claimed

that it was the responsibility of DDA and not DUSIB to develop a nursery.

"The task of providing adequate temporary toilet facilities at Jailorwala Bagh, adjacent to the DDA land where a nursery is being developed, was not assigned in June 2022. Secondly, the responsibility of developing the nursery was of DDA and not DUSIB. Thirdly, the shifting of toilet blocks was delayed not due to DUSIB but due to inaction by DDA, as they could not provide the alternative land sites for shifting of existing toilets," Mahesh wrote.

The former DUSIB CEO listed a number of works he undertook, including finalisation of accounts since 2010, setting up three creches and a library and geo-tagging of all slum clusters and facilities run by DUSIB.

"... the undersigned has performed persistently with diligence with the motive of improving the facilities being provided by DUSIB to slum dwellers and homeless efficiently in spite of the fact that the available staff strength was merely 25% of sanctioned strength," Mahesh wrote in the letter.

Bureaucrat shunted by L-G Saxena writes to him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

DAYS AFTER L-G VK Saxena transferred the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) CEO after finding arrangements at night shelters for homeless persons near ISBT Kashmere Gate "inadequate and dirty", the officer wrote to the Chief Secretary and said he had performed "persistently with diligence" to improve facilities in night shelters. In a press release, L-G Office had called the transfer of K Mahesh "a strong message to bureaucracy to either perform or perish".

In his letter, which he requested to be sent to the L-G as well, Mahesh wrote that while action was taken against him for also failing to set up toilets for residents of Jailorwala Bagh slum in Ashok Vihar so "ambitious world-class nursery project - Vaishnavi" could start adjacent to it, delay was because the Delhi Development Authority could not provide alternate land for the toilet block and that despite communication between the two bodies, work did not progress. He wrote, "... there is no basis in the charge of dereliction." Mahesh did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

The letter said shelters can accommodate over 1,800 people and occupancy on the night of the L-G's visit was only 662. Efforts, he said, have been made to set up new multi-storey shelters but it is not possible to set these up on floodplain by orders of the NGT.

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NAME OF NEWSPAPERS- दैनिक जागरण नई दिल्ली, 5 जनवरी, 2023 DATED-----

'शौचालय ब्लाकों के स्थानांतरण में देरी के लिए डीडीए जिम्मेदार'

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली शहरी आश्रय सुधार बोर्ड (डूसिब) के पूर्व मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी के महेश ने ड्यूटी में लापरवाही के चलते किए गए तबादले को लेकर सफाई दी है। उन्होंने मुख्य सचिव को पत्र लिखकर कहा है कि शौचालय ब्लाकों के स्थानांतरण में देरी डूसिब की वजह से नहीं, बल्कि डीडीए की वजह से हुई है। उन्हें स्पष्टीकरण देने का अवसर दिया जाना चाहिए था। उपराज्यपाल ने 23 दिसंबर को आइएसबीटी कश्मीरी गेट के आश्रय गृहों का निरीक्षण किया था। वहां साफ-सफाई के साथ ही आवास और शौचालय में सुविधाओं की कमी मिली थी। इसके बाद के महेश का तबादला पिछले सप्ताह ही विशेष निदेशक के रूप में केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सिविल सेवा प्रशिक्षण कार्यालय में कर दिया गया था। उपराज्यपाल ने यह भी कहा था कि के महेश ने ड्यूटी में लापरवाही की है, जिसकी वजह से एक नर्सरी परियोजना में तीन महीने की देरी हुई है। इसे लेकर ही उन्होंने मुख्य सचिव को पत्र लिखा है। इसमें दावा किया है कि नर्सरी विकसित करने की जिम्मेदारी दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) की है न कि डूसिब की। शौचालय ब्लाकों को स्थानांतरित करने में देरी डूसिब के कारण नहीं, बल्कि डीडीए के कारण हुई। डीडीए की जिस भूमि पर नर्सरी विकसित की जा रही है, उससे सटे जेलोरवाला बाग में पर्याप्त अस्थायी शौचालय की सुविधा प्रदान करने का कार्य जून 2022 में नहीं सौंपा गया था। लेकिन, डीडीए समय पर वैकल्पिक भूमि उपलब्ध नहीं करा सका।