

(b) and (c) The Agreement enables cooperation between the two countries in the areas of mass transportation systems, water supply and sewerage systems, disposal and treatment of solid waste, green housing and urban planning. It aims at capacity building of personnel to enhance their capacity for managing the process of urbanization.

Space around the big trees

1539. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of "Centuries Old Trees" in NDMC area are in pitiable condition as very less space around the trees is left open and the rest is concretized thus denying for aeration;

(b) if so, this is being done despite the clear directives of the Delhi High Court prescribing leaving a minimum of 1.2 meter space around the big trees so that such trees are not deprived of nutrition support and nourishment from the soil; and

(c) whether proper anti-termite treatment is done in respect of such big trees so that termites may not start eating into live branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) NDMC has informed that concretizing of pavement around trees is being discouraged and it is ensured that enough kucha space is left around the tree. However, there are some trees where lesser space is available because of the tree being adjacent to a building or on the turning point of road, where providing enough space is not possible.

(c) NDMC has also informed that all the protective measures including anti-termite treatment are being taken by the Plant Protection Cell for the old trees in NDMC area.

Development of the urban transport system

1540. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any comprehensive plan for the development of the urban transport system by introducing viable and environment friendly transportation like Metro rail in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any long term policy for the financial viability and its fast implementation for improving the current transport system in the country;

(d) if so, the criteria under consideration in this regard; and

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on its implementation and arrangements made by Government to mobilize funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI): (a) Urban Transport is intertwined with Urban Development which is a State Government subject. As such the initiatives for urban transport systems have to be taken up primarily by the State/Union Territories and Urban Local Bodies.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Central Government has taken active steps like formulation of the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), financing of buses for Urban Transport, Bus "Rapid Transit System Projects, Traffic Transit Management Centre under Urban Transport under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) and sanction of metro railway projects for various cities.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (a) and (c) above.

Lease hold to freehold conversion online in Delhi

1541. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were few takers for lease hold to freehold conversion online in Delhi Development Authority (DDA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) As reported by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), it had launched a scheme of conversion of flats from lease hold to free hold through online mode on 31.08.2012. Till date, 52 applications for conversion of DDA built up flats and 23 for CGHS flats have been received. Of