

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT [SHRI BABUL SUPRIA (BABUL SUPRIYO) BARAL]: (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A non governmental organization had organized the 13th Urban Age Conference with the theme “Governing Urban Futures”. This took place on 14 and 15th November, 2014 at New Delhi. The conference invited a large number of policy makers across several countries. Ministry of Urban Development extends support and promotes participation in such events/conferences which are organized on various aspects of urban development. The Ministry also considers and utilizes the outcomes of such conferences wherever available, while formulating its policies/programmes.

Development of cities at different levels

2156. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government comes out with new outlook with the dream of “Smart city”;

(b) the new parameters to face the new challenges of the urban cities on account of big migration from villages; and

(c) the blue print of action plan for the development of cities at different levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT [SHRI BABUL SUPRIA (BABUL SUPRIYO) BARAL]: (a) to (c) The Concept Paper on developing 100 Smart Cities is presently at draft stage, which is available on the Ministry’s website (www.indiansmartcities.in). The Guidelines shall be finalized after approval of the scheme.

Returning of Sri Lankan refugees from India

2157. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil National Alliance of Sri Lanka has sought India’s help in the return of Sri Lankan refugees from India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also true that most of the refugees living in India desire to live in India rather than deporting back to Sri Lanka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD) V. K. SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue concerning the return of Sri Lankan refugees from India has been discussed by Government with the Government of Sri Lanka and other relevant stake holders, including the Tamil National Alliance, in the ongoing political reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka.