

**Criteria for urban population**

2868. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria used for measuring the volume of urban population in an area, while selecting the cities in the recently announced Smart Cities initiative for 100 cities;

(b) whether these criteria are followed uniformly across the states, while declaring a particular area to be urban; and

(c) the details on the percentage by which the migration of rural population to urban areas is expected to reduce with the advent of the smart cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The criteria for distribution relating to 100 Smart Cities among States/UTs is based on an equitable criteria taking equal weightage to urban population (from census 2011) of the State/UT and the number of statutory towns in that State/UT. However, the selection of Smart Cities follows a Challenge (competition) process. In the Stage-I of the Competition, the States have to shortlist Cities based on the criteria given in the Guidelines available on Ministry's website ([moud.gov.in](http://moud.gov.in)) and in accordance with the total number allocated to it. Thereafter, the shortlisted cities have to compete in an All India Contest in Stage-2 of the Challenge.

(b) The above criteria is followed uniformly for distribution of potential Smart Cities amongst all the States/UTs. Moreover, the towns/urban areas are notified under law by the concerned State/UT Government and have local bodies like municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees etc.

(c) It is not quantifiable as the objective of Smart Cities Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions to improve urban infrastructure and services.

**UNICEF report on malnutrition**

2869. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that according to latest UNICEF report, while seen a deep dip of over 14 per cent in the number of malnourished children (six years and