

level rests with the concerned Passport Office in consultation with the CPV Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. The appeal against an order of a High Court to be filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court is decided by the CPV Division of the Ministry of External Affairs at the instance of the concerned investigating agency and in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Smart cities in most backward districts

*34. SHRIDILIPKUMARTIRKEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's Smart City project is limited only to already developed cities or the Government proposes to extend the project in next phases to the most backward, tribal dominated districts also; and

(b) the existing criteria for selecting a city to be included in Smart City project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):

(a) The Smart Cities Mission extends to all Urban Local Bodies.

(b) The Smart Cities Mission was launched on 25th June, 2015 and the Guidelines were also released on the occasion. The selection of Smart Cities follows a Challenge (competition) and the criteria for selection during the challenge are in the Mission Guidelines. The Guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (*moud.gov.in*) The broad criteria in the two-stage Challenge process are:

Stage-I

- (i) Existing service levels
- (ii) Institutional systems/capacities
- (iii) Self-financing
- (iv) Past track record and reforms.

Stage-II

- (i) Credibility of implementation
- (ii) City Vision and strategy
- (iii) Impact of proposal
- (iv) Cost effectiveness
- (v) Innovation and Scalability
- (vi) Process followed.