

(d) Does not arise. New projects initiated in the last two years are GSAT-17, GSAT-18 and GSAT-19 communication satellites; continuation flights of PSLV (C36-C50); Oceansat 3 and 3A, Cartosat-2E, Cartosat-3, SCATSAT-1 and NISAR projects.

Scheme of building smart cities

†605. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the basic concept behind the scheme of building smart cities formulated by Government;

(b) whether land would be acquired for this;

(c) if so, the Government's views regarding the villages adjacent to the concerned cities; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote the cities that are declared to be converted into smart cities and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Cities are engines of growth for the economy of every nation, including India. Nearly 31% of India's current population lives in urban areas and contributes 63% of India's GDP (Census 2011). With increasing urbanization, urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. This requires comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. All are important in improving the quality of life and attract people and investments to the city, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development. Development of smart cities is a step in that direction.

(b) and (c) The Smart Cities Mission strategy consists of area-based development and support of smart solutions to improve services and infrastructure. Area-based development will transform existing areas (retrofit and redevelop), including slums, into better planned ones, thereby improving liveability of the whole City. New areas (greenfield) will be developed around cities in order to accommodate the expanding population in urban areas. Application of smart solutions will enable cities to use technology, information and data to improve infrastructure and services. Comprehensive development in this way will improve quality of life, create employment and enhance incomes for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, leading to inclusive cities. No land acquisition is prescribed in the guidelines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The objective of Smart Cities Mission is to develop 100 Smart Cities which have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of an equitable criteria. The selection process of smart cities is based on the idea of competitive and cooperative federalism and follows a challenge process to select cities in two stages. In Stage 1, Ministry of Urban Development has announced a list of 98 potential smart cities on the basis of shortlisting done by States/UTs through intra-state competition for participating in the Stage 2 of the challenge. The list of 98 shortlisted cities is available on the Ministry's website (www.moud.gov.in). The shortlisted cities will prepare their Smart City Proposal (SCP) containing the vision, plan for mobilization of resources and intended outcomes in terms of infrastructure up-gradation and smart applications for the Stage-2 of the competition at the All-India level. The finally selected smart cities will be funded under the Mission.

Metro-rail to all capital cities

606. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that Government propose to give metro-rail to all the capital cities of Indian States; and

(b) If so, by when this endeavour will be completed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DDA flats surrendered by allottees

607. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of DDA flats have been surrendered by the allottees who have been allotted flats in the recent housing scheme of DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any review has been done by DDA to find out the reasons for such surrenders; and

(c) if so, the details and the findings thereof and the measures taken to rectify the issues such as poor construction quality, infrastructure, etc.?