

land on which development is proposed along with time period within which project has to be completed; depositing of 70% of amount received from allottees in a separate bank account, which shall be used only to cover the cost of construction and land; and timely audit of accounts; etc.

Government has taken various initiatives for homebuyers and housing sector. Goods and Service Tax (GST) on under-construction affordable housing projects has been reduced from 8% to 1% without Input Tax Credit (ITC), and in case of other housing projects from 12% to 5% without ITC; Affordable Housing Fund has been established in National Housing Bank by using backlog in priority sector lending to reduce interest burden on Affordable Housing; additional deduction of ₹ 1.5 lakh on account of interest on home loan has been allowed for affordable housing under Income Tax Act in addition to existing deduction of ₹ 2 lakh; the benefits of availing upto 100% deduction on profits under section 80-IBA of the Income Tax Act has been extended to affordable housing projects approved till 31st March, 2021; and the scope of affordable housing project has been enhanced from 30 to 60 square meters in metros cities and 60 to 90 square meters in non-metros cities for availing the benefits under section 80-IBA of Income Tax Act.

Further, in order to give relief to homebuyers of stalled projects, a special window has been created to provide last mile funding to the stressed affordable and middle-income housing projects in the form of one or more Alternate Investment Funds (AIF) for funding projects that are net-worth positive and registered under Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, including those projects that have been declared as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) or are pending proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Encroachment of footpaths in cities

*193. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that footpaths meant for pedestrians in cities across the country are disappearing due to encroachments by hawkers, shopkeepers and even by residents in front of their houses;
- (b) whether incorporating maintenance of footpaths as an integral part of town planning is essential to ensure pedestrian-friendly cities; and

(c) whether Government in consultation with State Governments proposes any policy to save footpaths from encroachments in cities across the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Urban Planning and Development including construction and maintenance of footpaths are State subjects and come under the purview of Urban Local Bodies/Urban Development Authorities. However, in order to improve civic amenities in cities, Government of India provides technical support to States in their efforts for infrastructure development and to manage various challenges.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released 'Urban & Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014 which recommends design and construction of footpaths and width of footpath along various land uses in its section 8.2.3. Section 8.4.10.3 of URDPFI Guidelines- 2014 on Street Design mentions about uninterrupted walking zone and multi-utility zone for street furniture etc. on footpaths. However, URDPFI Guidelines- 2014 is an advisory document for the States and it is up to the States to adopt its provisions. Also, under the World Bank-GEF-UNDP supported Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched "Non-Motorised Transport Guidance Document". Pedestrian walkways (footpaths) have been constructed as part of demonstration pilot project of SUTP, as per details below:

Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh: Length- 29 KM, Width- 2.5 mtr

Pimpri Chinchwad (PCMC), Maharashtra: Length- 28 Kilometer, Width-1.5 to 2 mtr

Hubli Dharwad, Karnataka: Length- 4.5 Kilometer, Width- 1.5 to 2 mtr

Timeline for completing census-2021 and NPR

†*194. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the updation process for Census-2021 and National Population Register (NPR) has been started;

(b) if so, the number of phases in which these processes would be completed and the timeline fixed for it;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.