

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 04, 2020
REVIEW OF SCM

NO. 1518. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to review the Smart City Mission (SCM) after experiencing very sluggish progress in implementation because of very difficult ground situation;
- (b) the reasons due to which Government is not considering to prioritize fairly new or less complicated cities for development as smart cities; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) The review of progress of Smart Cities selected under Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is carried out regularly at different levels. At Smart Cities level, the implementation of the Smart Cities projects is done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for the purpose. The SPVs plan, appraise, approve, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate their Smart City projects. At State level, Mission implementation is coordinated by the State level High Powered Steering Committees (HPSCs) chaired by the respective Chief Secretaries of States/Union Territories. At the National level, the implementation of SCM is being monitored by an Apex Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The Nominee Directors of MoHUA on the Boards of SPVs are also monitoring the progress in respective Smart Cities on a regular basis. In addition, MoHUA regularly interacts with the States/Smart Cities through video conferences, review meetings, field visits, regional workshops etc. at various levels to assess the performance of the cities and to handhold them for improving the same. Besides, the guidance of domain experts participating in the regional workshops, cities benefit from peer-to-peer learning during these interactions. The Smart Cities are regularly reporting implementation status of projects under SCM through the Online-Management Information System (MIS). In addition, all the Smart Cities have been advised to furnish utilization status of Government of India funds on a monthly basis for monitoring the utilization of funds more closely. The overall progress of SCM shows momentum in project execution and there has been 227% growth in projects tendered, 294% growth in projects grounded/completed and 393% growth in projects completed in the last 18 months. Some of the cities need extra support to increase their pace of implementation. To address this issue, the concept of 'Sister Cities' was announced in the 3rd Apex Conference of Smart Cities held on 24-25 January, 2020. Through this, 20 better performing Smart Cities have been teamed up with 20 other Smart Cities that need support to improve their performance. Starting from 20th February 2020, each city-pair has initiated a 100 days challenge to review gaps in implementation.
- (b) & (c) The selection of 100 smart cities was completed through a City Challenge Process in four rounds of selection from January, 2016 to June, 2018. Each Smart City is expected to complete its projects within 5 years from the date of its selection.
