**O.I.H**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1676**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 13, 2021**

**EASE OF LIVING INDEX 2020**

**NO. 1676. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:**

Will the Minister of **Housing and Urban Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling over to launch any scheme to improve the living conditions in the lowest ranked cities conditions as per the Ease of Living Index 2020 in consultation with the respective State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the major areas wherein the said cities have scored less?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE**
**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**
**(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

(a) to (c): Smart Cities Mission (SCM) introduced the Ease of Living (EoL) Index in the year 2019 with the aim to assess ease of living of citizens across three pillars i.e., Liveability, Economic Ability, and Sustainability. EoL indicators are linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this exercise helps track and achieve SDGs. Two iterations of EOL have been carried out in 2019 and 2020. The Framework fosters healthy competition between cities, inculcates evidence-based planning and helps channelize investments and resources in directions most-needed by them. EoL 2020 was open to all Smart Cities and cities over 10 lakh population as per 2011 census.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) actively engages with States and cities in this process right from designing the Framework, data gathering, analysis, dissemination of results and handholding them in their efforts to improve performance. Various scheme and non-scheme interventions are implemented by MoHUA for this purpose. Broadly, a three-level strategy is followed.

…2/-

At the first level, the challenges of poverty alleviation, affordable housing, cleanliness, access to drinking water supply and conservation of water resources are being addressed through Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U and SBM- U 2.0), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0). in all cities. At the second level, 100 cities are being developed under SCM to address the issue of ease of living by evolving new paradigms of urban governance keeping community at the core. At the third level, urban transport projects like Green Mobility, Metro Rail, MetroNeo and MetroLite are being implemented in selected large towns and cities.

As per the results of Ease of Living Index 2020, overall cities have scored an average of 53.51 out of a total of 100 points. Across the pillars, they have scored an aggregate of 51.38 on 'Quality of Life', 13.17 on 'Economic Ability' and 53.63 on 'Sustainability'. Further, within 'Quality of Life', the categories of 'Mobility' and 'Recreation' have received low scores compared to other categories. Under 'Economic Ability', performance of cities in 'Economic Opportunities' component needs focus. Finally, scores under 'Sustainability', 'Green Spaces & Buildings' reflect low performance of cities.

The findings under the Ease of Living Index 2020 have been captured in the portal - https://eol.smartcities.gov.in/. The portal helps State & city/other stakeholders identify areas that need prioritized attention. Further, detailed city fact-sheets have been made available to States/cities, and dissemination workshops have been conducted to enable them make best use of this report. In addition, a Guideline Document titled "Making a City Smart: learnings from the Smart Cities Mission" has been made available to all States & Cities to support their endeavours for smart development in their Cities by replicating the learnings in identified Smart Cities.

****