

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 63  
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025**

**TWIN CITY INITIATIVES AND ASSOCIATED EXPANSION PLANS**

**63. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:**

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

- (a) the number of twin-city initiatives currently underway in the country;
- (b) the criteria used for selecting cities for such initiatives;
- (c) the steps taken to promote economic cooperation between twin cities;
- (d) the progress made in cultural exchange programs under these initiatives; and
- (e) the plans for expanding the twin-city concept to promote regional development?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (e) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal Ministry for the Twinning arrangements. Guidelines for Twinning of Cities, 2014 have been issued with the objective to strengthen bonds of friendship between a city in India and the twinned city in another country. The areas of cooperation proposed for twinning arrangements may include service delivery, civic administration, land use planning & management, transport, shelter, education, culture, sports, waste water & solid waste management, infrastructure, environment, public health, tourism, *etc.*

The State Government concerned is required to obtain the formal consent of the Local Government of the foreign city to be twinned. Once agreed upon, the State Government concerned submits the proposal to the Government of India for approval. MoHUA conveys the approval to the State Government concerned, after consultation with Ministries concerned, including the Ministry of External Affairs. The State Government/Local body thereafter signs an Agreement with the local body of the twinned city and makes the necessary arrangements to ensure mutually satisfactory implementation of the Agreement. The Twinning Agreement remains in force for period of three years, subject to renewal. However, no data is maintained at central level regarding signing of the twinning agreements and implementation thereof.

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