

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding urbanization in India.

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): By the year 2030, India's urban population is widely estimated to increase from 37.3 crore in 2011 as per the Census definition to more than 60 crore. 10 crore urban households will be middle class up from 2.2 crore households. Cities will drive four-fold increase of per capita income and 70% of employment will be generated in cities.

Nevertheless, the true extent of urbanisation is neither captured by the administrative definition nor by the census definition of urban due to which the effects of urbanisation on economic growth and poverty reduction are being underestimated.

Hence, in order to increase the productivity dividend of urban areas, augment the capacity of the Government to provide services and fulfil the objectives of Smart Cities Mission, I earnestly request the Government to explore the merits of determining alternative & objective criteria defining an urban area that best captures the character of urbanisation in India.