

(b) Tariff will have to be so structured to cover the cost of operation & maintenance, as well as to provide for new investment taking care at the same time that lifeline supply would be available at minimum cost to the consumer.

(c) Since this is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide on the selection process of private entrepreneurs.

Transport projects in various cities

3196. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has set up the Urban Mass Transit Corporation to carry out the feasibility studies for transport projects in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Corporation is expected to commence its work and which cities are likely to be covered initially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. (UMTC) was set up in April, 1993, with the approval of Union Cabinet, to undertake the implementation of Hyderabad Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis. However, in principle approval was also given by the Union Government for undertaking similar railway based system in other metropolitan cities on Built, Operate & Transfer (BOT) by the UMTC or similar companies in the joint sector with the approval of the concerned State Government. The feasibility study for LRT Hyderabad was got conducted by Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1989 through M/s RITES. No feasibility studies have been carried out by UMTC.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise.

(c) As at present no specific schedule has been prepared by UMTC to commence its work for any transport projects for any particular city in the country.

Development of Kanyakumari and Kashmir as International Tourist Centres

3197. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :