

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has made a demand for funds for starting third metro rail project between Colaba and Bandra in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, when and whether Government will grant this fund at the earliest and fulfil the demand of Maharashtra Government to start the third phase of metro rail along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra forwarded proposal to the Central Government for Mumbai Metro Rail Project (line 3) for implementation of Colaba-Bandra Corridor under Viability Gap Funding Scheme of Ministry for Finance, Government of India. The complete documents were received on August 5, 2010. The necessary action in this regard has been initiated. It is not possible to give any firm date of final approval in such cases.

Desalination project in Mumbai

2071. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested to undertake installation of desalination plants using sea water and reverse osmosis technology to avoid acute drinking water shortage in Mumbai;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when the grant for proposed desalination project in Mumbai will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was examined in this Ministry and the Government of Maharashtra has been advised to explore the possibilities for better water supply management through leakage control; metering for sustainable use; environment friendly pricing policies; reuse of treated waste water, besides water source potential creation through projects on Gargai, Pinjal, Kalu and other small and medium structures instead of opting for installation of a desalination plant using sea water and reverse osmosis technology.

(c) Does not arise.