

(b) if so, the details thereof when it was mooted and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether similar support besides excise and customs concessions, was also granted for the Delhi Metro System?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has proposed to construct a Light Rail Transit System on the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Corridor (15.0 km) on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis at an estimated cost of Rs. 1500 crore (April '03 prices). The Detailed Project report for this project was received in February, 2005 and the 'in-principle' approval for this project was given by the Planning Commission in April, 2005. The State Government has undertaken a bidding process to identify a private promoter. The requirement of financial assistance from the Central Government, for this project, is to be considered under the scheme of viability gap funding announced by the Ministry of Finance. A firm estimation of the requirement of funds will be possible only after the bidding process undertaken by the Government is complete.

(c) The Delhi Metro Rail system is being implemented by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), a joint venture company of the Government of India (GOI) and Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). The total equity contribution is about 30% of the project cost. This is shared equally between the GOI and GNCTD. There is no viability gap funding involved in the project. Excise and Customs duty exemptions have been granted to the project.

Cooking equipment of mid-day meal

†*369. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stoves and traditional *chulhas* are used to cook food under the Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these equipments are not useful for cooking food for a large number of children together and as a result thereof women engaged in cooking have to face problems; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government would consider to provide gas stoves and cylinders for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A variety of cooking arrangements including traditional *chulhas* and gas-based devices are in use for cooking mid-day-meal depending on local circumstances. Guidelines of the Scheme advocate training of cooking staff in safe handling of stoves, etc., and use of smokeless *chulhas*, as applicable.

(c) Decision regarding choice of cooking device rests with State Govts./ local-bodies.

Environment Friendly Features in Buildings

*370. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Green Building Council has asked Government to make it mandatory for the buildings above 20000 Sq. ft. to incorporate minimum green features; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Indian Green Building Council had organized a conference in September 2005. In the conference, the Council made the following suggestions as informed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):-

- I. The Government should make it mandatory for buildings above 20,000 sq. ft. to incorporate minimum green features.
- II. At the State levels, the Urban Development Authorities should come out with prescriptive green measures for different varieties of buildings like commercial, residential flats and individuals houses.
- III. The Government should incentivise those going for Green Buildings in the form of lower power tariff and reduced insurance premia.
- IV. The Government should introduce 'Green Buildings' and Energy Simulation' for buildings as an elective subject in the Architectural