

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

High-speed rail system on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route

*61. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken examination of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's final report on the feasibility study of the proposed high-speed rail system on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route;

(b) whether any follow up action has been taken on priority basis;

(c) whether Government has decided upon a future course of action for execution of this project, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have examined the feasibility study of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train project submitted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in July 2015.

(b) to (d) To take the project forward expeditiously, the project proposal has been submitted for consideration of an Empowered Committee on Innovative Collaborations under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Further, JICA have also been requested to undertake supplementary studies regarding technical standards and regulations, legal and institutional framework, preliminary design for safety, plan for land value capture around stations, review of Final Location Survey and plan for human resource development.

Electioneering system

*62. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all measures and precautions, the electioneering process still has many loopholes to be plugged;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any attempt to study and collaborate with other countries having similar but better electioneering systems;

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to adopt for improving our system;