

through the formation of project specific Special Purpose Vehicle. The project specific Special Purpose Vehicle will have equity participation of Ministry of Railways and the State Government through the Joint Venture. The Special Purpose Vehicle shall be at the liberty to arrange investment from other Stakeholders, Public Sector Undertakings, raise debt from Banks or Financial Institutions for undertaking a project.

(d) As per the Shareholding Pattern approved by Cabinet, Ministry of Railways can have the equity participation upto 50% in the Joint Venture and State Government to have the balance equity participation.

(e) Formation of JV company will help in mobilization of additional resources for execution of railway projects resulting in expansion of Railway Network in the country. A railway line in any area is an engine of growth for the entire economy. It will enhance economic/commercial activities and help generate large quantum of direct & indirect employment.

Survey for new railway route from Solapur to Jalgaon

1570. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for a new railway line from Solapur to Jalgaon (454 kms.) covering Tuljapur, Osmanabad, Kunthalgiri, Beed, Paithan, Aurangabad, Verul, Sillod and Ajanta Caves has been completed, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether Railways are seriously considering this project for better connectivity between western Maharashtra and Marathwada region; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the time-frame set for implementation of the said project, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Survey for a new line from Solapur to Jalgaon (454 km. *via* Tuljapur, Osmanabad, Beed, Paithan, Aurangabad, Verul, Sillod and Ajanta Caves has been completed. The cost of this line has been assessed as ₹ 3238 crore with a negative Rate of Return of (-) 5.69%. Due to its unremunerative nature, huge throwforward of ongoing projects, limited availability of funds for new lines and other competing priorities, this project could not be taken forward.

However, to reassess viability of the Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad (80 km.) leg, an updating survey has been taken up.