

Private players in Metro Rail projects

2272. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made it mandatory for State Governments, seeking central financing for the proposed metro-rail projects, to involve private players in the execution and running of the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the State Governments have responded to the Central Government's directive; and

(d) whether Government feels that this proposal would give the desired result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the Metro Rail Policy, 2017, State Governments desirous of availing central financial assistance for metro rail projects should mandatorily explore the possibility of having a Public-Private-Partnership arrangement to the extent feasible.

(c) and (d) Government of India has granted "in principle" approval for implementing Pune Metro Line-III (Hinjewadi-Shivaji nagar) for 23.3 km under Public-Private-Partnership mode. During the past few years, more cities are leveraging private partnership for development and implementation of metro rail projects by way of unbundling various activities and components to capitalize the private resources, expertise and entrepreneurship. Automatic Fare Collection and Operation and Maintenance have been bid out successfully on Public-Private-Partnership in some of the metro rail projects.

Impact of underground rail on ecology in Aarey, Mumbai

2273. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) Limited has underreported the impact of underground rail's on ecology in Aarey (Mumbai) to Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA);

(b) whether MMRC has earlier planned to hack 1,652 trees in Aarey but the number has shot upward to 2,430 trees while total trees to be cut stand at 5,012;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and