

Concerns about bullet train project

742. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan wants more bullet train routes across India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that SAIL has been discarded for supplying the rail for the bullet train project, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Japanese are concerned about the different work culture between the two countries, if so, the details thereof and the planning of Government to solve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No formal proposal from Government of Japan for High Speed Corridor except for the ongoing Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project is received in this Ministry.

(b) The rail needed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project is not being produced in India.

(c) No, Sir.

Running allowance to loco staffs and guards

743. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the running allowance given to loco staffs and guards before and after Seventh Pay Commission;

(b) the reasons why Railways is not increasing the running allowance of loco running staffs and guards even after repeated protests and representations by the employees;

(c) whether Government is aware that the running staff retirees of Railways are denied parity in pension; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would take action to implement pension parity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present Loco Staff and Guards are being allowed Running Allowance at the rates fixed prior to notification of Seventh Central Pay Commission. After implementation of Seventh Central Pay Commission, revision of Running Allowance is under process.