

MRTS Project

1694. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTS Projects for Delhi is pending finalisation for a long time and as a result the project cost has increased manifold;

(b) if so, the steps taken to expedite the project;

(c) when the project is expected to be launched; and

(d) the likely distance to be covered in different phases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). After the in principle approval of Delhi MRTS Project by the Government of India in July, 1994, follow up actions are being taken towards getting final investment approval of Government in consultation with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The actions which have already been completed are: preparation of Detailed Projects Report through the Government of National Capital Territory; preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report and Detailed Financial/Economic cost-benefit analyses of the project; registration of a company under the Companies Act in partnership with the Delhi Government to implement the project; posing the project before the OECF (Japan) to provide soft loan assistance for the project; and getting the approval of the Empowered Committee set up under Cabinet Secretary's Chairmanship to facilitate and monitor all matters connected with the implementation of this project. The OECF (Japan) has also got an independent techno-economic appraisal of the project conducted recently and has found the project to be acceptable for OECF (Japan) assistance. However, their decision to sanction loan assistance for this project is awaiting the final investment approval of the Government of India/Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to this project, which has been sought for. The OECF (Japan) has asked for this approval to be conveyed to them by mid-August, 1996, in order to be able to include this project in their 1996-97 Loan Package.

(c) The project is expected to be launched during 1997-98 subject to final investment approval by the Government and availability of the OECF loan for the project.

(d) The first phase of the project will be covering 55.3 Kms. including 11.00 Kms. underground. The details of the second and subsequent phases can be decided only after the implementation of the first phase has been taken on hand.

Development of Backward Areas

1695. DR. ARUN KUMR SARMA :

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for the development of backward areas in Assam approved by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released during the above period;

(c) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Assam for financial assistance; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Union Government introduced a scheme (Employment Assurance Scheme) for poverty alleviation in 1993-94 in identified backward blocks situated in the drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and hilly areas. Out of 218 blocks in Assam, 142 are covered under the scheme. The funds released towards the scheme during last three years are given below :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	2587.50
1994-95	5790.00
1995-96	10025.00

No State-wise allocation are made under the scheme, as it is a demand based scheme.

Three growth centres, one each at Charidaur, Balijana and Sonapur, have been earmarked in the State of Assam for which Government of India will provide Rs. 15 crore for each centre. No fund has been released so far as the work on the scheme is yet to start; in two cases projects reports are under formulation and project report in case of one (Charidaur) was received from Government of Assam.

(c) Government of Assam requested the Government of India for equity for the growth centre at Charidaur.

(d) Some questions were raised by the appraising agency for which clarification has been sought from the State Government. A reply is still awaited in the matter.

National Capital Region Plan

1696. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the National