

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:413

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009

DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR PROJECT

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have sought financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the Western Corridor of the Railways' dedicated freight corridor project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the said credit will be finalized and its term of repayment;
- (d) whether an Indian delegation visited Japan to consider feasibility of introducing bullet train on Indian tracks;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other issues discussed with Japanese authorities during the aforesaid visit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(DR. R. VELU)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Assistance under Special Terms of Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme of Government of Japan has been sought for the Western Corridor.
- (c): The loan is targeted for finalisation in the year 2009-2010.
- (d) to (f): A delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Railways visited Japan from 12.1.2009 to 15.1.2009 and discussed issues regarding funding of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project, train operations, infrastructure creation and undertook industry and site visits of railway facilities. The delegation also travelled on the Shinkansen (Bullet Train) for a first-hand experience of the Shinkansen Train services.