

the concessions given to the industry are passed on to the consumers, and if so, I would like to know the details as to what is the monitoring system for this.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, the Government has constituted a Monitoring Committee which is going into it. But so far there have been only two sittings of the Committee and they have not informed us about what steps they are going to suggest. As soon as I receive the report from them, I would submit it to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. Shri Somnath Rath.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we want to ask.

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up in the next Session — February.

Soviet assistance for Metro Railway System

*374. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH †:**
SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the Soviet Government offer of providing assistance for construction of Metro Railway System in Indian cities;

(b) whether a Metro Railway System in Delhi is likely to materialise in the near future; and

(c) the other Metropolitan cities in India which require such system because of their vast development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Soviet

Government has been requested to send a Team of Experts to India for preliminary talks on their offer of assistance relating to the introduction of Mass Rapid Transit System for Delhi.

(b) A Task Force, set up by Government in 1987, has established the need for a Mass Rapid Transit System in Delhi particularly in East-West corridor from Vivek Vihar to Vikas Puri. The Task Force has recommended the introduction of Light Rail Transit System/M-Bahn. However, no decision in this regard has yet been taken.

(c) The metro system in Calcutta has already become partly operational. Work on such system in Madras and Bombay has begun in selected corridors. Most of the metropolitan cities have been proposing to have such systems. It is reported that the State Governments concerned have already commissioned studies by consultants for the purpose for the cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Hyderabad. A decision about the introduction of such a system in a particular city will have to be taken by the concerned State Government on the basis of such studies and their resources position, in necessary consultation with the Govt. of India.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Soviet offer for an underground rapid transport system provides technical as well as financial assistance. If so, whether the Soviet Government will give full financial assistance for the implementation of the system and at what cost and when the work is going to start.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: A delegation of the Railway Ministry visited the Soviet Union recently and held talks on the subject of mass rapid transport system. During this

discussion the Soviet union expressed its willingness to undertake this work. In this connection, we have requested the Indian Ambassador there to request the Soviet Government to send a multi-disciplinary technical team to India. We have written to them as well and we are waiting for the reply.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: The hon. Minister has replied to part (c) of my question that some other metropolitan cities have been proposing to have such system and in Calcutta as well as Madras, this system is not complete. As such, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Soviet offer is also there to implement this system in all the metropolitan cities.

{*Translation*}

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: In view of increasing pressure of population on the big metropolitan cities today, our intention is to ensure a transport system which minimises traffic congestion. Through RITES under the Railway Ministry, survey work has been undertaken of the cities of Hyderabad, Secundrabad and Bangalore by the concerned State Governments and the burden of the expenditure is going to be shared by the Centre, State and the concerned local bodies.

[*English*]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Sir, as the House is aware, Bangalore city is one of the fastest growing cities in Asia. The traffic congestion there is very terrific. On the request of the State Government, the Railways have already prepared a scheme of Rs. 650 crores spread over 25 years. Now, that scheme is being revised by the RITES as per the suggestion of the Planning Commission. May I know from the hon. Minister that since the scheme is already

prepared and the necessity for it is really much more, will the Government of India consider including Bangalore city also under the scheme of mass rapid system for various metropolitan cities?

Will the Soviet assistance be extended to Bangalore city also? Because the State Government cannot directly correspond with the Soviet Government will the Ministry of Urban Development take the initiative and see that Bangalore city is also included in the scheme?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not in a position to state at present whether Soviet assistance will be extended to Bangalore. But it is a fact that a survey with regard to Bangalore has been conducted through RITES. Hon. Shri Krishna Iyer has submitted that Delhi was to get this facility earlier. A task force was created in this regard in 1987, and our then Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development, Shri Sukthankar who headed this committee submitted its report. It has, inter alia, been recommended in the report as to which system the LRT or MRTS will be more suitable for the east-west corridor proposed to be constructed between Vivek Vihar and Vikaspuri. So far as Bangalore is concerned, RITES is examining it and after receipt of the report, Central Government will consider as to how it could be best implemented.

[*English*]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Because of the growing population in each and every city, the Metro Railway is very very necessary. The Metro Railway System at Madras which was taken up about ten years ago ought to have been completed by 1989. But only 40% of the work is over. You are allotting very very meagre funds every year. Even during this year, 1988-89, the Depart-

ment of Railways have allotted only Rs. 9 crores which will be sufficient only to meet the overhead expenses. That is all. No more work can be done with Rs. 9 crores. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that we get greater allocation from Soviet Russia to take up and complete this work faster.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: I think it is at an early state. I am unable to say anything.

[*Translation*]

But it can be stated here that this consortium has been formed after taking this point into consideration and in this connection we have allocated Rs. 2 crores for the current year and ultimately it will be increased to Rs. 100 crore. But the particular condition here is that Central Government is not going to bear the burden of the entire expenditure alone, it will bear only 40% of the expenses.

[*English*]

40% is from the State sector, 30% is from the local bodies.

[*Translation*]

And you have submitted that Metro Railway system is under construction in Madras and the Centre will take care of it.

[*English*]

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether an assessment has been made as to what type of mass transport system will be necessary for our country and particularly in relation to the economics of operation, whether medium strip, or the underground or the elevated?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: That is why the

Soviet team is coming here to assess as to how this work is to be undertaken. In the survey conducted of Delhi in 1974, it was recommended that out of the total length of 183 kms of railway tracks, 58 kms. should be underground and rest of it should be on the surface. At the moment, we cannot say as to how this will be done, but the Soviet team will make an assessment of the situation and make recommendations in this regard... (*Interruptions*) So far as expenditure is concerned, hon. Shri Aggarwal has stated that it will be of about Rs. 4000 crore.

Food demanded by Maharashtra Government

*379. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH†:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains demanded by Government of Maharashtra during the current year and the extent to which it has been met;

(b) whether on account of inadequate supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra, less quantity of foodgrains is being given through Public Distribution System to the poor people of that region; and

(c) if so, the time by which this situation is likely to improve and regular supply of foodgrains in adequate quantity will be restored to Maharashtra?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) During the current year, the Government of Maharashtra have been allocated a quantity of 17.95 lakh tonnes of foodgrains against their demand of 23.80 lakh tonnes.