

(f) if so, whether some recommendations have been made by the Indian Roads Congress consequent to such discussions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A research Scheme had been sanctioned in March 1993 for Rs. 7.46 lakhs under which there are three experimental stretches, namely km 184-186, km 232-234 and km 262-268 of Kanpur-Varanasi section of NH 2. The work was completed in March 1995. Performance test is in progress. Use of rubber as a modifier is in an experimental stage. It is too early to assess the durability and safety.

(d) to (f). Yes, Sir.

(g) The Indian Roads Congress Seminar recommended to explore the possibility of using additives like rubber and polymer to bitumen. Implementation of using rubber as a modifier could be considered after the performance tests are completed and specifications are finalised.

Rapid Transport Systems

*298. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to invite and induct private sectors in Metropolis Rapid Transport Systems (MRTS) on a "Build-Own-Operate-Transfer" (BOOT) basis;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the offers, if any, received for the MRTS, indicating the towns where the same were proposed to be provided; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) to (c). DELHI : As far as introduction of Mass Rapid Transit System in Delhi is concerned, no company has come forward to take up this project on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. However, Ministry of Surface Transport have proposed the introduction of High Speed Tram System in Delhi with private participation on BOOT basis. For this purpose, that Ministry has invited initial proposals from various national/international parties. The responses received by them, however, are still under scrutiny by the Ministry of Surface Transport.

BANGALORE : Government of Karnataka got a feasibility study conducted in 1994 for introducing a mass rapid transit system in Bangalore. The study has recommended the introduction of a light rail system on six corridors totaling 90 Kms with an estimated cost of Rs. 4200.00 crores. The system is recommended to be

introduced in four phases. The first phase covers about 24 Kms at a cost of Rs. 1200.00 crores. The full system is recommended to be completed by 2006. The Government of Karnataka has set up a company viz. Bangalore Mass Rapid Transit Ltd. (BMRTL) for introducing the above system. The company has invited "Request for Proposals" from various national/international companies to implement the project. The Company has received responses from Groups of Companies, both Indian and foreign, which are presently under scrutiny and evaluation by the Government of Karnataka.

HYDERABAD : A feasibility study commissioned by Government of Andhra Pradesh recommended the introduction of a Light Rail Transit System in 1989, as follows :

1. Balanagar-Khairatabad (Phase-I)	9.549 Kms
2. Khairatabad-Charminar (Phase -II)	7.000 Kms
3. M.J. Market-Dilsukhnagar (Phase III)	5.999 Kms
Total :	<u>22.548 Kms</u>

The total estimated cost of the project at 1992-93 prices is Rs 585 crores. A company viz. Urban Mass Transit Company (UMTC) has been set up for implementing the project. The Company has invited "Expressions of Interest" from various national/international firms to execute the project on BOOT/ Turnkey basis, the responses to which are under evaluation by the Company.

Sail Euro Issue

*299. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given final approval to the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to tap the international market by the proposed Euro issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate capital proposed to be mopped up through the Steel Authority of India Euro issue;

(d) whether the SAIL have chosen any company to manage Euro issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including criteria fixed for their selection and service charges to be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Government of India (Ministry of Finance) has granted "in principle" approval to SAIL to raise funds from international market by issuance of fresh equity shares