

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3190
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
SKY BUS PROJECT IN GOA
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether `sky bus` project has been operationalised by the Government in Goa for its use as transport system;
- (b) if not, the reasons for its delay;
- (c) the present status of the project;
- (d) the total amount spent thereon; and
- (e) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and operationalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)to(e) : `Sky Bus` is a new technology of public transport proposed by the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and is based on the concept of coaches suspended from guided wheel systems. Since the system is new, safety aspects of its operations need to be proven. The project was taken up on a test track of 1.6 km in Goa, which was not intended for being itself used as a public transport system.

An amount of Rs. 50 crores had been sanctioned for this project by the Ministry of Railways. Trial runs started on the test track in September, 2004.

An Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P.V. Indiresan, Retd. Director, IIT Chennai was set up by the Ministry of Urban Development to evaluate the system and examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspects. In its report submitted on 29th August 2005, the Expert Committee has recommended further development & testing of the system, with the objective of proving it technologically.

Only after successful demonstration of this new system, can its operation as an urban transport alternative, be allowed. No time limit can be indicated as this is a new concept and it is yet to be proved technologically.