

- (i) The registration number of vehicles shall be hot stamped and reflective sheet would be provided.
- (ii) The plates would also bear the letter 'IND' in blue colour on the extreme left centre of the plate.
- (iii) The rear plate shall be fastened with non-removable/non-reusable snap lock system.
- (iv) In addition to the number plates at the front and rear of the motor vehicle, a third registration plate in the form of self-destructive chromium based sticker shall be affixed on the left hand top side of the wind shield of four-wheelers. The engine number, chasis number, registration number and name of registering authority shall also be given on the sticker.
- (v) There shall be a chromium foil based hologram on the body of the registration plates.

Vehicles already registered have been given a lead time of two years thereafter to switch over to the new High Security Registration Plates.

(b) This scheme was originally to come into force from 28.9.2001. However, keeping in view the fact that neither any vendor had got approval for his product nor were the States ready, a decision was taken in consultation with the States to defer the introduction of the date of implementation of new High Security Registration Plates for motor vehicles from 28.9.2001 to 28.2.2003.

(c) Pending fitment of new high security registration plates, the change in the colour scheme on the existing registration plates *i.e.* letters and figures in black colour on yellow background in case of transport vehicles and in black colour on white background in case of other vehicles had been mandated on or before 1 st February, 2002 in respect of transport vehicles and on or before 1st July, 2002 in other cases. This has been done as the new colour scheme offers maximum retro-reflectivity and visibility and also ensures safety of road users.

Construction of trans-asian road network

2470. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of trans-asian network covering Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether there is any plan to develop the road from Agartala to the nearest city of Bangladesh, as Tripura is strategically convenient; and

(c) whether Government are attaching importance to the proposal in consideration of the terroristic problems prevailing in the North-Eastern Region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The identified Asian highway routes traverse through Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Roads in Hilly Region

2471. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2002 and state:

(a) the amount of assistance being provided by the World Bank for upgradation of road and by when, the work of upgradation would be started for convenience of the people of hilly region;

(b) whether Government have awarded any tender for upgradation of this road; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the amount of assistance to be provided by the World Bank for upgradation/rehabilitation of the Meerut-Bijnor-Najibabad section of State Highway in U.R is Rs. 44.36 crores. The work has already been taken up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.