

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) 150 numbers of National Highway Projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) as well as 32 number of projects with State PWD each costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Steps taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highway Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Delay in NH projects

1315. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been inordinate delay in National Highways projects;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to expedite the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the projects are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/ environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Action taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Widening of NH-24

1316. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which National Highway - 24 linking Delhi with Uttar Pradesh is proposed to be widened so as to help smooth movement of traffic in and around Delhi during 2010 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Delhi; and