

- e. Providing a Letter of Comfort from Ministry of Finance confirming the availability of Cess at least till 2030-31.

Extension of golden quadrilateral project upto Kanyakumari

3054. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to extend the golden quadrilateral project upto Kanyakumari;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Golden Qadrilateral project connects four metros namely Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai, North-South corridor connects Srinagar to Kanyakumari under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP).

Wastage of fuel at toll plazas on NHs

3055. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of wastage of fuel worth crore of rupees per day due to long snarls of vehicles on various toll plazas at National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government is also aware that long queues of vehicles at toll plazas are not only wasting fuel but wasting time also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to make toll free National Highways in view of wastage of fuel and time; and
- (e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) Long queues have been reported at some of the toll plazas near major cities during peak hours, which could result in wastage of fuel. No such study has been, however conducted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). While modernization of toll collection system is envisaged through pilot projects using Electronic Toll Collection Systems, following measures have been adopted to minimize the queuing problems at Toll Plazas:

- (i) Minimizing clearance time of a vehicle by toll operators at the plaza.
- (ii) By installing Electronic Toll Collection System (ETC) at the plazas as pilot testing project.