

RTOs. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 further empowers State Governments to make rules for appointment, jurisdiction, control and functions of the Licensing Authorities. However, the State Governments can recognise certain institutions to conduct the test of competence and issue driving certificates which enables the licensing authorities to issue driving licence. Any complaint regarding corruption at the testing centres is to be looked into by the concerned State Government.

System to make ports efficient

3153. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study undertaken by Government revealed that Indian ports are plagued with high dwell-time;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make the ports efficient;

(c) whether a comprehensive introduction of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is contemplated to make the entire system efficient;

(d) if so, whether any ports in Andhra Pradesh would be provided with EDI;

(e) if so, the details of the time-frame fixed to complete the exercise; and

(f) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Dwell-time of cargo in the ports varies depending on the nature of cargo such as bulk, break bulk or containers and the purpose, i.e. export or import. Government of India has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Shipping to make recommendations for reducing the dwell-time at Major Ports and to bring it in line with international standards. The IMG is in the process finalizing the report.

(b) Improving efficiency of the ports is an ongoing process and involves development of berths, deepening of channels, equipment upgradation and modernization of rail-road connectivity.

(c) to (f) Except Paradip and Ennore Ports, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) (between Ports and Customs Department) has been implemented in all the major ports including Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh. The scope of EDI is being further enlarged.

Maintenance of roads during four-laning

†3154. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a clear cut policy for maintenance of roads during the period of four-laning work undertaken by NHAI;

(b) whether the maintenance work on the urban sector of Udaipur on NH-76 is being done by NHAI; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) deals with the sections identified for upgradation to 4/6 lane under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and other projects. Wherever 4/6 laning works under NHDP are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, the maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. In case of sections identified under NHDP where 4/6 laning has not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads are being carried out by NHAI, State Public Works Departments (PWDs)/Border Road Organisation (BRO) through funds provided by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The four-laning of Udaipur bypass is under construction by NHAI and presently NH-76 passes through the city portion of Udaipur, which will be maintained by NHAI till the construction of Udaipur bypass is completed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.