

(c) whether it is also a fact that by implementing this decision foreign companies could get work in the country;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether this decision will affect the minor capital investors of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Government's existing policy for development of National Highways already provides for private-participation on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis with "Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT)" as the preferred mode of delivery, where under, foreign companies can also participate in the international competitive bidding. Further, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted under the automatic route for all road development projects.

#### **Proposal from Kerala to amend Motor Vehicle Rules**

717. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from the Kerala State Government to amend the Motor Vehicle Rules by incorporating a rule as sub rule (3) to Rule 82 enabling the State Transport Authority to delegate such of its powers and functions under section 88 Motor Vehicles Act to such Authority or person as may be prescribed by State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Increase in average cost of road construction**

†718. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction cost of National Highways has increased during the past years;

(b) if so, the average cost of road construction in the year 2004-05 and the average cost of road construction estimated in 2008-09; and

(c) what percentage increase in the cost of raw material, dividends to constructors administrative expenditures has resulted in this increase in construction cost?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.