

Tragic accident on Kota bypass and Chambal bridge on NH-76

†715. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

- (a) the date of sanctioning of construction work on Kota bypass and Chambal bridge on NH-76 and the date of commencement of construction work;
- (b) the agency which designed this work and the agency which is executing the work;
- (c) whether many labourers were killed in a tragic accident last month when some pillars collapsed during the construction work of bridge;
- (d) whether the same is being investigated;
- (e) if so, the outcome of the investigation; and
- (f) the steps being taken to ensure that the selection of site and designing for bridge could not lead to the repetition of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The contract agreement for design and construction of Chambal Cable Stayed Bridge on Kota bypass on NH-76 was entered into on 26.06.2006 and the work commenced on 07.11.2006.

(b) The work of design, construction and maintenance of Cable Stayed Bridge was awarded by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on 'Turnkey Basis' to M/s Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company Limited – Gammon India Limited (Joint Venture).

(c) Forty eight persons have died in the accident.

(d) to (f) Ministry has constituted a Committee to inquire into the causes of collapse. The Committee's final report is expected by end of March, 2010. Further steps regarding sitting and designing of the bridge can be taken only after examination and approval of the report of the inquiry Committee.

Selection of road construction companies

†716. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to select major capital investors in place of minor capital investors for the construction of national highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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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