

Toll charges for Gurgaon expressway

4436. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for the fourth time in two years, toll charges for 27.7 Km. Gurgaon Expressway has been increased;
- (b) if so, to whom task of collection of toll tax has been assigned indicating the amount collected during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 till the current financial year indicating the date of notification each time;
- (c) what is the mechanism evolved by Government for increasing rates of toll tax; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to review/amend the Toll Tax Rules 2008, relating to roads, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No Sir. The user fee rates have been revised on three occasions since commercial operations of the project in January, 2008.

(b) The user fee is being collected by the Concessionaire (M/s. JPDSC Ventures Ltd) in accordance with the notification published on June 18, 2007. The total amount of user fee collected during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 was Rs. 129.40 crore and Rs. 153.93 crore respectively.

(c) The user fee rates are revised every year on 1st April, as per the provisions of the notification, based on the change in Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

(d) Government has undertaken comprehensive review of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 for amendments, as may be necessary.

Introduction of high security registration plates for motor vehicles

4437. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted a High Level Committee to look into the grievances relating to introduction of High Security Registration Plates for motor vehicles;
- (b) if so, whether the recommendations of the Committee have been received and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether All India Vehicles Owners Association have represented to Government on number of issues including different price-structure and cartelization of some tainted companies; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on their representation, point-wise, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) The Government has set up a Committee under the convenorship of Joint Secretary (Transport) in this Ministry to look into various aspects relating to implementation of HSRP. The Committee will work within the ambit of the mandate given to it. This is a Standing Committee and will make its recommendations to the Government from time to time.

(c) and (d) The All India Private Vehicles Owners Association in its representation has raised the issues relating to wide difference in the rates of HSRP and formation of cartel by some companies to grab the contract in different States. As far as the price of HSRP is concerned, as per the information available in this Ministry, so far, the scheme has been implemented only by three States i.e Meghalaya, Sikkim and Goa. As such it may not be correct to say that there is wide difference in the price of HSRP in various States. Moreover, the scheme has to be implemented by the States/UTs. It is their responsibility to negotiate the price of HSRP with the vendors. Any method to calculate the price of HSRP would need to be devised by the concerned States and not by the Central Government.

Further, none of the States/UTs have brought to the notice of this Ministry about the involvement of any cartel in the business of HSRP. The All India Private Vehicle Owners Association had also filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 581 of 2008 in the Supreme Court in this regard. This petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Court observing that it has "no merits." As on date 18 vendors have been given type approval by different testing agencies. As such, the question of monopoly does not arise.

Development of NH and State roads in LWE affected areas

4438. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether project covering development of 1,202 Km. of NH and 4,362 Km. of State roads in Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected areas, is being implemented; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allotted and road length of NH and State roads covered, year-wise and district-wise, and especially for Jharkhand for the last three years, project-wise?