

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Ministry has taken several corrective actions to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

- (i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (ii) Road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using intelligent Transport System, and enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector being implemented by the Ministry since 1997-98 under plan activities.
- (iv) Setting up of Driving Training School in the country.
- (v) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.
- (vi) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (vii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (viii) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.
- (ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

In addition to the above, the Government has introduced a bill in Lok Sabha on 4th May 2010 to create Road Safety and Traffic Management Board to oversee road safety activities in the country in a comprehensive manner.

Target for building 20 Kms. highway in a day

4447. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has fixed a target for building 20 Km. highway in a day;

- (b) if so, whether the target has been achieved anywhere in the country; and
- (c) the hurdles in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since highway projects have a gestation period of 4 to 5 years from inception, the rate of construction is to be progressively increased to achieve the target of 20 km road per day.

Failure to achieve target on 20 Km. road a day

4448. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has failed to achieve the target of 20 km road construction a day by December, 2009 and propose to achieve this target by June this year;
- (b) if so, whether Government has analyzed the reasons for such failure in fulfilling such proposed target of construction of roads; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The rate of construction is to be progressively increased to reach the rate of 20 km per day. Since highway projects have a gestation period of 4 to 5 years from inception, the rate of completion of construction will increase only progressively.

(c) In order to revamp National Highways Development Projects and expedite award of projects, the Government implemented the recommendations of B.K. Chaturvedi Committee report wherein a number of measures relating to changes in bidding process, documentation, mode of delivery, revised financing plans etc. These measures are expected to generate increased investor's interest. In order to expedite implementation of projects regional offices have been set up by NHAI headed by Chief General Managers. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Managers who will monitor land acquisition matters as well as implementation of projects. Special land acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. State Governments have been requested to appoint Chief Secretaries as Nodal officers to expedite NHDP projects by removing bottlenecks if any. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Head Quarter as well as field units.