

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether proposals of road wing are approved by bureaucrats without technical scrutiny and approval of DG (Road); and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies of engineers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) As against the total sanctioned strength as 206 of Central Engineering Service (Roads) 43 posts are vacant. In addition, it has also been decided to fill up 21 recently created Plan posts on the basis of Recruitment Rules for Central Engineering Service (Roads).

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Proposals of the Road projects are examined by the technical officers of the Roads Wing who obtain the approval of Director General (Road Development)/ Additional Director General before the approval of the competent authority is obtained in accordance with the laid down procedure.

(f) The vacancies of Assistant Executive Engineer and Executive Engineer have been referred to UPSC for being filled up on direct recruitment basis. The post of Additional Director General and Chief Engineers which can be filled up by eligible officers on promotion basis have also been referred to Union Public Service Commission.

Integrated toll tax policy

4444. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering about an integrated Toll Tax Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rationale behind the move and by when the new policy would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Effect of NH-7 passing through pench tiger reserve

4445. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pench Tiger Reserve, one of the four most viable tiger habitats in the country is facing problem as the National Highways Authority of India proposes to slice the reserve in two by building four lane highway (NH-7) through it;

(b) whether it is a fact Pench Tiger Reserve is a small habitat with 411 sq. Kms. in area and the division to slice the reserve into two could well mean the death knell for the 30 tigers living in the reserve; and

(c) if so, 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

High-Accident prone areas in A.P.

4446. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the "High-Accident Prone" areas identified and monitored by the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reaction of Government to "High-Accident Prone" areas in the NHAI roads like NH-5 in West and East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government is ready to take a positive approach to reduce road accidents;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government has a lethargic approach to road accident; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to change the mind set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is not aware of any 'High-Accident Prone' areas identified and monitored by Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh. However, some stretches of Vijayawada-Gundugolanu section, have been identified as 'Accident-Prone' areas in coordination with police authorities. This stretch passes through Krishna & West Godavari Districts. Traffic safety devices like road signs, cat's eyes, cash barriers, provision of route patrol, ambulance and crane etc have been provided through O&M contractor in the section. Moreover, in the upcoming 6 lanning of Vijayawada-Gundugolanu section under NHDP Phase V, junction improvement and flyovers are being proposed, wherever, required.