

**Need to revise emission norms**

4449. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the existing emission norms are appropriate only for very old vehicles and not for those running on post Euro-II norms;
- (b) how do the above norms are relevant when the country is all set to switch over to Euro-IV norms in April, 2010;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the PUC norms last revised in 2004 and there was no revision since then; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) and (b) Mass emission norms such as Bharat Stage-II, Bharat Stage-III, Bharat Stage IV etc. are applicable for new vehicles and not for old in-use vehicles. These norms are made applicable in different parts of the country in respect of various categories of motor vehicles, manufactured from a date notified by the Government. At present, Bharat Stage- IV norms are applicable only in respect of four wheeled vehicles manufactured on and after 1st April, 2010, in the National Capital Region and certain other highly polluting mega cities.

(c) and (d) Tightening of Pollution Under Control (PUC) norms for in-use vehicles is a continuous process. The PUC norms were last revised in 2004. However, State Governments were empowered to prescribe even tighter norms, subject to availability of technical and administrative back-up.

**Rs. 10,000 crores stuck in disputes with NHAI**

4450. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to road construction industry claims Rs. 10,000 crores are stuck at various levels of disputes with the National Highways Authority of India;
- (b) whether the BK Chaturvedi committee, appointed to resolve the issues in the roads sector, called for a bucket-based approach to resolve disputes plaguing the sector;

(c) whether this would call for classifying the disputes after looking at the outstanding claims on the balance sheet of vendor companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Claims for an approximate amount of Rs. 9,200 crore are pending before various courts and arbitral tribunals.

(b) to (d) The B.K. Chaturvedi Committee has submitted its report on Dispute Resolution Mechanism for National Highway projects with the following suggestions, viz., one time settlement of pending disputes may be offered to the contractors adopting a bucket-based approach to drop all category A cases (amount claimed is less than Rs. 10 crore or 5% of contract price whichever is lower) after a review on case to case basis by Independent Expert Group (IEG); National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) may carefully review the cases other than category A in general and the award of arbitral tribunal may be accepted in category B cases (amount involved is between Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 100 crore). The Committee has also suggested some course of action for reducing future disputes such as Dispute Resolution Board (DRB) recommendation should invariably be accepted; raising of time limit for DRB to issue its recommendation; review of Detailed Project Report (DPR) may be made more intensive; cost associated with time extensions may be duly quantified; appeals relating to decisions by the Variations Committee may be reviewed periodically by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, etc. The Committee has also recommended that both the general conditions and Conditions of Particular Applications (COPA) may be standardized in future awards.

#### **Scheme to finance state highways**

4451. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to finance construction of State Highways or district and other rural roads;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) the amount allotted or proposed to be allotted till date;

(d) the manner in which State Governments propose to utilize the funds; and

(e) the details of targets achieved so far, if any?