

(b) whether there is any improvement in the proposed level of service with respect to existing level of service, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average per kilometer cost of proposed improvement; and

(d) whether there is any grant to be provided by Government, if so, what is the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) As per National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, the rate of fee for use of a section of National Highway having two lanes and on which the average investment for up-gradation/improvement exceeds, Rupees one crore per kilometer, shall be sixty per cent of the rate of specified under sub rule (2) of rule 4.

(d) Government provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) up to maximum of 40% of the Total Project Cost for projects included under various phases of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) undertaken in 'Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT)' (Toll) mode on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) basis.

Acquisition of land for NH projects

1495. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government insisted State Governments to expedite acquisition of land for National Highway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response from the State Governments;

(c) the number of projects which are pending for want of sufficient land to be acquired by State Governments; and

(d) 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) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Ministers in charge of the State Public Works Departments (PWDs) was held under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways [Minister (RT and H)] on 05.2.2010. During this meeting, the Minister (RT and H) requested the State Government to extend their active cooperation and pro-active participation in the programme of implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) right from the inception of individual projects for enabling their successful and time bound implementation. Land acquisition for Highway projects was one of the issues discussed during the meeting. The Minister (RT and H) also directed in the above mentioned meeting that in case, despite repeated persuasion land acquisition is not feasible for the projects which either could not commence or are delayed after commencement for several years in some of the States, feasibility of dropping such projects or foreclosure of the projects already commenced in

those States could also be considered in extreme cases. Necessity for gearing up and expediting the process of land acquisition by the State Governments with fortnightly review of the progress with District Land Acquisition Officers were reiterated in the meeting and States were requested for taking up of necessary corrective actions promptly and ensure timely handing over of land to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(c) There is no such project pending for award of sufficient land to be acquired by State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

Four lane roads in NE area

1496. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of present position of the construction of four-lane roads in the North Eastern area as per the policy of look-East; and

(b) by when the proposed construction of road bridge over Brahmaputra by the side of Sarai Ghat Bridge is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Four lane roads in North-East are mainly being constructed as part of East-West Corridor in Assam from Srirampur (Assam / West Bengal Border) to Silchar. Total length of 678 km divided into 27 contract packages has to be improved to 4-lane standards. Out of 678 km, 4-laning of 18.5 km. length (Guwahati bypass) has already been completed and 4-laning of 629 km length divided in 26 contract packages is in progress. 4-laning of 31 km length could not be awarded as the stretch passes through Borail Wild Life Sanctuary.

(b) The construction of road bridge over Brahmaputra (part of East-West Corridor) by the side of Sarai Ghat Bridge is scheduled for completion by March, 2012.

1497. The Question was cancelled.

State highways converted into NHs in Punjab

1498. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the length of State Highways in Punjab converted into National Highways during the last three years ending 31st December, 2009 with the expenditure incurred thereon, year-wise;

(b) whether more such roads are proposed to be converted during the remaining period of Eleventh Five Year Plan, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure required for the purpose, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) No State Highways in Punjab has been converted into National Highways during the last three years ending 31st December, 2009.