

Highway was carried out by State Bank of India (SBI) Capital Markets Limited which is a subsidiary of SBI, a Govt. institution. M/s SBI Capital Markets Limited was selected out of 5 financial consultants. An amount of Rs.72.57 lakhs was paid for rendering financial services.

Financial support to Kerala for State Transport Undertakings

2878. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Central Government to provide financial support by way of subsidy, low interest finances from Central funding agencies, exemption of excise duty for diesel and vehicle purchases etc. for the State Transport Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry from Kerala Government in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Central Capital for KSRTC

2879. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that as per article 23 of the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950, Central and State Governments have to provide the required capital for State Road Transport Corporation in the proportion decided upon by those Governments;

(b) if so, in what proportion the required capital is provided for Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC);

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government stopped making capital contribution to KSRTC from 1991-92 onwards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to 1993-94, the capital contribution from the Central and State Government was provided in the proportion of 1:2.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission dispensed with the scheme to provide capital contribution to State Road Transport Corporations and, hence, no capital support could be provided to any State Road Transport Corporation including Kerala State Road Transport Corporation since 1993-94.

Upgradation of State highways into National highways

2880. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total cost of upgradation of State Highways into National Highways during the last four years, State-wise;

(b) the details of upgradation of State Highways in Assam into National Highways during these years;

(c) whether there are any future plans of upgradation of such roads in Assam during 2010-2012; 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) No separate provision of funds for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways is made.

(b) No new National Highways in Assam has been declared during last four years.

(c) and (d) Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highway is taken up from time to time depending upon, requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Increase of toll tax for people using express highways

2881. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of toll tax was increased from April, 2009 for the people using Ahmedabad-Rajkot-Kandla and Mumbai-Surat Express Highways for transport;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in rate;

(c) whether it is also a fact that from the day of opening this highway for use by public, the rate of toll tax has been increased several times; and