

(b) if so, the States which have not acquired the land and area of the land, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that hurdles in the acquisition have arisen on account of humanitarian problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, State Governments have been advised to co-operate in land acquisition for Highways projects, as in the absence of land, the ongoing projects may have to be foreclosed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NH projects held up for environment clearance

2893. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of National Highway projects have hit a barrier with the Environment Ministry not giving them clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to remove these roadblocks coming in the way of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) At present five projects are pending for forest clearance and two for wildlife clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

(c) Meetings have been held at the level of Cabinet Secretary and Secretary, MoEF for resolving the bottlenecks.

Road safety standards

2894. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of international road safety standards;

(b) the details of Indian road safety standards;

(c) when the Indian road safety standards were prescribed and the subsequent revision made so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that the WHO Report recommended for setting up of institutional mechanism on road safety; and

(e) if so, the steps Ministry has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) The International Road Safety Standards are prescribed in many Guides and Manuals such as (i) Towards Safer Roads in Developing countries (TRL, Ross Silcock,

1991), reprinted in 1994 (ii) Road Safety Guidelines for Asia Pacific Region (ADB-1997), (iii) Vulnerable Road Users in Asia Pacific Region- Ross Silcock, TRL ADB, 1997 (iv) Guidelines for the Safety Audit of Highways IHT, UK 1996 and (v) Accident Reduction and Prevention IHT UK 1990 etc.

International road safety is also covered under UNECE working parties, WP 1: Working Party on Road Traffic Safety and WP 29: Working Party for Harmonization of Regulations. While WP1 covers road traffic rules, road signs and signals, behavior on road, roadside checks and penalties, safety of children, etc., WP 29 deals with regulations for vehicles.

(b) and (c) Indian Road Safety Standards are prescribed in "Manual for Safety in Road Design" and Manual on Road Safety Audit, in addition, Indian road Congress has brought out the following four road safety standards for the guidance of Highway professionals:

- 1) IRC:SP:27-1984- Report containing Recommendations of IRC Regional workshops on Highway Safety
- 2) IRC:SP:32-1988- Road Safety for Children (5-12 years old)
- 3) IRC:SP:44-1996- Highway Safety Code
- 4) IRC:SP:55-2001 - Guidelines for Safety in Construction Zones

(d) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government has decided to set up National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board to promote road safety and improve traffic management in India.

Approval of new highways/express highway

2895. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new highways and express highways have been approved in all over the country and specially in Jharkhand in the financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10; and

(b) the status of those new highways and express highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) A List of new National Highways declared in the Country during the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Statement (See below). However, no new express Highway have been declared during this period in the Country. Further, no new National Highways have been declared in Jharkhand during the financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10.

(b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up based on traffic condition, interse priority and availability of funds.