

(a) the progress of the feasibility study of the proposed Vadodara-Mumbai Express Highway project;

(b) the time-frame by when the feasibility study will be completed and detailed land plan schedules to be prepared and the process of land acquisition likely to be started; and

(c) the reasons for undue delay in finalization of the project inspite of the fact that alignment of the Express Highway was finalized by the Central Government in 1991 and the State Government of Gujarat had frozen land in 300 m width along the proposed alignment as back as in 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Preparation of feasibility cum Preliminary Design Report for Vadodara - Mumbai Expressway is in progress, which is likely to be completed in December, 2010. Preparation of the land plan schedule for this project has been initiated.

(c) Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway has been identified by Government of India under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI in November, 2006. The proposed alignment of the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway in the State of Gujarat is passing through the frozen corridor of the State Government of Gujarat as far as possible with minor deviations based on site constraints.

#### **Collection of toll tax by private companies**

†1158. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India is going to utilize the services of private companies for collecting toll from vehicles passing toll plazas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this policy of NHAI would render 35000 Ex-servicemen at present engaged in collecting toll jobless; and

(c) whether under this new policy private companies would also be entrusted with the responsibility of upkeep of roads covered under toll areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No Sir. Engaging 50% ex-servicemen as part of work force is a condition for all successful bidders.

(c) Yes sir. NHAI is engaging two types of private contractors for collection of user fee. In the first system, the contractor has to maintain the roads and collect the user fee under Operation, Maintenance and Transfer contracts. In the second system the contractor is responsible only for collection of toll.

#### **Report on slow progress of highways project**

†1159. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has submitted a report to Government regarding slow progress in implementation of highways project;

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

(c) whether Model Concession Agreement (M.CA.) is a hindrance in implementation of said project;

(d) whether private investors have expressed their reservation in providing assistance to the highway projects owing to certain provisions particularly termination clause in M.CA;

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) the remedial measures being 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 report was submitted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in May, 2009 under the title "Draft note for Committee of Secretaries/Cabinet on critical review of progress of NHDP- issues related to mode of delivery of highways" highlighting hurdles affecting award and execution of projects like irritants in Model Concession Agreement (MCA), Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP) documents, delays in process for approval of projects, capacity issues, Land Acquisition issues and delays in toll notification etc. Government appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B. K. Chaturvedi, Member Planning Commission with the objective of suggesting measures for revamping NHDP. The committee submitted a report containing the recommendations on the urgent issues for key changes

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.