

Annual work plan formulated by NHAI

2694. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for expeditious completion of National Highways Development Project, annual work plans have been formulated by the NHAI;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements made under the annual work plans so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For expeditious completion of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the Government has approved for award of contracts for 23,744 km up to 2010-11 under Work Plan-I and Work Plan-II.

- (c) So far, contracts for a total length of 5822 km have been awarded under Work Plans I & II.

Delay in road projects funded by World Bank

†2695. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether World Bank has made any comments regarding delay in completing the road projects financed by it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Government's reaction in this regard and the action contemplated in this regard;
- (d) whether Government is contemplating setting up a road appellate tribunal and a sector regulator; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps contemplated to increase skilled manpower in road sector and for modernizing technology and equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (c) 4-laning of Lucknow-UP/Bihar border section of NH-28 is in progress under the World Bank loan assistance. Recently, the World Bank Mission visited the project and has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expressed their concern over delay in completing the projects, due to delay in land acquisition/utility shifting and inadequate safety arrangement at site. Regular meetings are being held by NHAI higher officials with the concerned State Government to sort out the problems regarding land acquisition, utility shifting etc.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present to set up Road Appellate Tribunal and a Sector Regulator. However, the Government is already seized of the various issues relating to roads sector including capacity building. The National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE), under the aegis of this Ministry has trained over 18,000 Highways Engineers since 2001. Further contractors involved in externally aided World Bank and Asian Development Bank projects are given exemption on excise/custom duties for modern equipment in road construction.

Delay in execution of two and four lane roads under EW corridor scheme

2696. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is delay in execution of the two-lane/four-lane roads under East-West Corridor scheme as it is not tangibly seen in the North-East area *vis-a-vis* its progress outside North-East region; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. 4 laning has been completed for 2495 km under East-West Corridor of which 198 km is in the North-East Region.

(b) Projects in North-East Region under East-West Corridor have been delayed mainly due to poor performance of some contractors, non-availability of environmental, forest and railway clearances, delays in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, some law and order problems etc.

Online National Register on driving licences and vehicle registration

2697. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized online national register on driving licenses and vehicle registration to detect and prevent fake driving licenses and tracking stolen vehicles;