

(a) whether it is a fact that only seven States are implementing new permit scheme for truckers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing by all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) to (c) As per information available with this Ministry, the new National Permit System has been implemented in all the States/UTs except in Jammu & Kashmir due to prevailing situation in that State.

Road projects lagging behind in NE region

2716. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern region has been lagging in terms of the progress of road construction projects of the NHAI;

(b) whether there is any particular reason for the delay of road projects in North-Eastern region of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of the road projects completed, year-wise in the last three years in the North-Eastern region?

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

(b) and (c) The projects have been delayed due to reasons such as poor performance of contractors, delay in land acquisition, environment, forest and railway clearances, legal disputes and law and order problems in the North-Eastern region.

(d) No project of NHAI has been completed during the last three years in the North-Eastern region.

Memorandum of cooperation between India and Finland on building roads and highways

2717. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Finland have agreed to cooperate in building roads and highways;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the two countries;

(c) whether any Joint Working Group has been established to study the various aspects of cooperation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how India could benefit from Finland which has established systems in vehicle inspection, certification, accident investigation, etc.?

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

(b) Memorandum of Cooperation between Government of India and Finland was signed on 10th May, 2010 in the field of Road Transport, with intent to promote scientific and technological cooperation and collaboration in the field of Road Transport. The two countries have agreed as follows:

The main form of cooperation will be exchange of information between road transport and road construction officials and experts of the two countries especially in the following fields:

- Highways / Roads construction, operation and maintenance;
- Planning and information management system for road administration;
- Finnish and Indian technical rules and legislative instruments concerning, toll roads construction and managing;
- Forms of private investments attraction for the field of public / private partnership for the construction and upgrading of roads including procedure for competitive bidding, supervision and implementation;
- Road traffic safety;
- Road data bank systems including methods for collecting input data;
- Road and highway maintenance / upgrading strategies including adopted systems and road maintenance equipment;
- Implementation and management of upgrade/new construction road (highway) and bridge projects;

- Road and bridge technology;
- Staff training;
- Intelligent Transportation Systems;
- Intermodal Transportation;
- Transportation for the Mobility Disabled;
- Other fields of mutual interest.

Parties also intend to promote and develop the relations between enterprises (Consultancy and engineering companies in the field of roads, manufacturers of equipment, material and other products for the sector), with the purpose of arriving at industrial cooperation agreements and transfers of technology.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) In order to promote and activate the institutional cooperation, an Indo-Finnish Joint Working Group has been established by the two parties.

The tasks of this Working Group will be as follows:

- To develop working programme and keep it updated;
- To coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the working programme;
- To provide a point of contact for the parties;

The Working Group shall meet alternatively in Finland and in India when mutually agreed upon.

(e) As mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question, India stands to benefit from the expertise of Finland in the fields in which cooperation is agreed to.

Widening of Delhi-Agra highway upto Ballabhgarh

2718. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to widen Delhi-Agra highway upto Ballabhgarh which is a very congested part of this Highway;

(b) if so, by when the work will be completed; and

(c) what is the fund allocated for this work?