

for the projects being taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in the State of Kerala. The State Government of Goa also requested that requirement of ROW may be restricted to 35 m in heavy built up areas for 4-laning works of NH-17 under NHDP in the State.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has so far not agreed for a compromise in the standards of the width of ROW.

#### **Increase in road accident deaths**

2708. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is concerned about the increasing number of deaths by road accidents which increased to 1,14,444 in 2004 from 84674 in 2002;

(b) whether Government is also concerned that there is no national policy to prevent the increasing number of road accidents; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to frame a National Road Safety Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) Yes Sir. It is however clarified that the number of road accidents has increased from 84674 in 2002 to 1,14,444 in the year 2007 instead of the year 2004.

(b) No, Sir. There exists a national policy on road safety, duly approved by the Cabinet to prevent increasing number of road accidents in the Country.

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

#### **Implementation of EW and NS corridors**

2709. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East-West and North-South corridors of the National Highways are under implementation;

(b) if so, whether they have been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these are likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There have been some delays in implementation of East-West and North-South (EW-NS) corridor projects mainly due to reasons like poor performance of contractors, non-availability of environmental, forest and railway clearances, delays in land acquisition and law & order problem in some States.

(b) The EW-NS corridors are targeted for substantial completion by December 2010.

#### **Restructuring of highway projects by NHAI**

2710. 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 the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently restructured some highways projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main benefits that are likely to accrue from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India has restructured 47 National Highway Development Projects.

(c) Major benefits of restructuring include optimization of the project cost and increasing its viability for award on PPP mode.

#### **Four laning of Sambalpur-Orissa-Chhattisgarh section of NH-6**

2711. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved proposal of four laning of Sambalpur- Orissa- Chhattisgarh Section of NH-6 in NHDP Phase-III;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in this section;

(d) by when the work of this project will be started and completed; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government for timely completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four-laning from Sambalpur to Orissa/Chhattisgarh Border