

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	33	17	6
Uttarakhand	3	2	0
West Bengal	22	11	5
GRAND TOTAL :	580	367	122

Stopping collection of toll tax on potholed NHs

*319. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to stop toll tax collections on potholed National Highways and other roads in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Repair of pot holes on NHs is an ongoing process as a part of regular maintenance activity and all out effort is made to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition. Wherever widening works are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, the maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement.

Objections of States on signing SSA with NHAI

†*320. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, have registered their objections on signing State Support Agreement (SSA) with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is an apprehension that the above said agreement may stop the State Governments from carrying out important road development work; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Twenty four States and Union Territories including the State of Maharashtra and Orissa have signed the State Support Agreement (SSA) till date. Certain

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

other State Governments including Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Gujarat etc. had sought clarifications pertaining to some of the provisions in SSA, especially those relating to restriction on construction of competing roads, additional toll ways, levying of local taxes etc. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had signed the agreement on 13th January, 2010 but subsequently conveyed their decision to withdraw the same in March, 2010, without indicating any reason for doing so.

(c) to (d) State Support Agreement is an umbrella agreement which is applicable to the National Highway projects being undertaken after signing of the agreement. The SSA does not prevent the State Governments from undertaking significant road development in their respective States.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Exploitation of resources by MNCs

†2326. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multinational Companies involved in trade in the country at present and the areas left out of bounds for them;

(b) the number of Small, Medium and Cottage Industries that have closed so far since entry of Multinational Companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Multinational Companies are rampantly exploiting Indian resources; and

(d) if so, whether Government would make any law in this regard so that rampant exploitation of natural resources could be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As on December 31, 2009, there were 3105 foreign companies as defined under section 591 of the Companies Act, 1956. Currently, the Foreign Direct Investment is prohibited in the Retail Trading (except single brand product retailing); Lottery Business including Government/private lottery, online lotteries, etc.; Gambling and Betting including casinos etc.; Business of chit fund; Nidhi company; Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs); Real Estate Business or Construction of Farm Houses; Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes; Activities/sectors not opened to private sector investment including Atomic Energy and Railway Transport (other than Mass Rapid Transport Systems).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.