regarding accidents caused by public transport jeeps. The NGO has neither submitted a copy of the report to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways nor has given any concrete proposal for action. Since the survey conducted by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) is limited to one city in Rajasthan only, it can neither be termed as a scientific study nor its findings can be generalised for the entire country.

(c) to (e) Provision of public transport including in rural areas falls under the purview of the States. Moreover the States are responsible for regulation of vehicular traffic on roads. There is no such proposal in this Ministry to ban plying of jeeps in the rural areas.

Six laning of all NHs passing through Vadodara-Mumbai and Ahmedabad to Rajkot

2450. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to undertake six laning of all the National Highways that passed through Vadodara to Mumbai and Ahmedabad to Rajkot during the current Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

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

(c) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Six laning between Vadodara and Surat section of NH-8 has already been completed. The six laning between Surat and Dahishar is under implementation since February, 2009 which is likely to be completed by August, 2011. NHAI has initiated the process of appointment of Consultant for preparation of feasibility study for six laning of NH-8A and 8B from Ahmedabad to Rajkot. The process of implementation would be initiated after completion of feasibility study and approval of the project.

Teenage driving in mega cities

2451. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teenage driving is rampant in mega cities in India; and

(b) what measures have been taken to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a person after attaining the age of 18 years is entitled to drive a motor vehicle in public place with valid driving

license. A person after attaining the age of 16 years can drive a motor vehicle with engine capacity not exceeding 50cc.

(b) Enforcement of the provisions of the Act is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT, who is required to ensure that no person drives a motor vehicle in public place without valid driving license.

Slow down in highway projects

2452. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: 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 has not awarded a single project in the past two and half months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the slow down in the highways project could adversely affect the target of building 20 kilometres a day; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no slow down in the highway projects. In 2010-11, till date 41 projects have been awarded comprising a length of 3772 km. and costing about Rs. 34724 crore.

Assistance to Karnataka for public transport

2453. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for financial assistance for strengthening public transport system by inducting 1500 new buses during the year 2009-10 in Karnataka is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government has requested to sanction and release as one time grant of Rs. 190.00 crores pending with Central Government; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A total of 1150 buses for city transport have already been sanctioned for Bangalore and Mysore by Ministry of Urban Development.