

(a) whether the Road Safety Forum has been demanding the construction of pedestrian overbridge at vulnerable spots along the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh and on the route between Chennai and Kolkata;

(b) the details of locations of overbridges thus built on the NH-5 during the last two years;

(c) the status of the demand of the Road Safety Forum for building a pedestrian overbridge at Gundugolanu on NH-5 which is the cross-roads of the NH-5 and State Highways; and

(d) the status in the matter?

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

(b) No pedestrian over bridge has been built on NH-5 during the last two years.

(c) and (d) Due to non-availability of land and other site conditions, the construction of pedestrian over bridge is not feasible at Gundugolanu on NH-5. However, National Highways Authority of India is exploring the feasibility of providing an underpass at this location as part of 6-laning project in the Vijaywada-Gundugolanu Section.

Dismissal of ex-servicemen manning toll booths

3235. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI has dismissed 25,000 ex-servicemen who are manning toll booths all over the country;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for this sudden mass dismissal of ex-service personnel;

(c) the number of people affected in each State;

(d) whether any compensation will be paid to such dismissed people by the NHAI as represented by the Road Safety Forum; and

(e) 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) to (e) Do not arise.

Removal of liquor shops from NHs

3236. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is no mechanism to stop rash driving and driving under influence of alcohol on our National Highway systems;

(b) whether it is a fact that Road Safety Forum has demanded that all liquor shops be removed from the National Highways to a distance of 500 yards;

(c) what steps did Government take to positively react to this demand of the Road Safety Forum;

(d) whether Government discussed such measures with the Road Safety Forum to satisfy the public that Government is earnest in reducing road accidents; and

(e) the reasons for ignoring such suggestion by Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) There are provisions against rash driving and drunken driving under Section 184 and 185 respectively of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. However, the enforcement of Law against rash and drunken driving is the responsibility of concerned State Governments.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The matter regarding removal of liquor shops along Highways was discussed in the 7th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) held on 15.1.2004 in New Delhi and it had unanimously agreed that the licenses for liquor vends should not be given along National Highways. The Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Transport) of all States/UTs were requested by this Ministry on 26th October, 2007 to ensure that no license is issued to the liquor vendor along National Highways. The State Governments were also requested to review such cases where license had already been given for liquor vendors along National Highways for taking corrective action.

(d) and (e) The suggestion of Road Safety Forum was discussed at the highest policy making level *i.e.* NRSC and necessary follow up action has been taken as indicated in part (c) of the reply above.

Delhi-Moradabad NH damaged due to heavy rain

†3237. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Moradabad National Highway has been heavily damaged due to heavy rain during last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether maintenance and construction work of the National Highway has been completed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.