

(a) whether during the visit to China he had invited Chinese investors to come to India and invest in road projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Chinese investors to this proposal/invitation;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from Chinese investors so far; 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) and (b) Minister for Road Transport and Highways during his visit to China invited Chinese investors and developers to invest and develop road projects in India. An encouraging response was received to this invitation.

(c) and (d) Chinese companies have already shown an interest in investing in several road sector projects in India. For example M/s Jiangsu provincial Transportation Engineering Group Co. Ltd. in Joint Venture with M/s. Ramkey Infrastructure Ltd. submitted RFQ applications for highway projects in the following stretches:

- (i) Srinagar-Banihal (NH 1A)
- (ii) Jammu-Udhampur (NH 1A)
- (iii) Quazigund-Banihal (NH 1A)
- (iv) Chenani-Nashri (NH 1A)
- (v) Udampur-Ramban (NH 1A)
- (vi) Ramban-Banihal (NH 1A) and
- (vii) Motihari-Raxaul (NH 28A)

Srinagar-Banihal project has been awarded to M/s Ramkey Infrastructure Ltd. - M/s. Jiangsu Provincial Transportation Engineering Group Co. Ltd. Consortium

**Road accidents *vis-a-vis* compensation to victims
in Sonbhadra district of U.P.**

294. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Justice of India cited recently a PIL on the death of over 4000 (four thousand) tribals in road accidents in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, where not a single victim's family got compensation;

(b) if so, the details of action taken so far and action proposed to be taken in giving financial relief to the victims' families;

(c) the details of road projects undertaken on those routes, where a large number of accidents are taking place in Sonbhadra district of U.P.; and

(d) the details of action taken and proposed to be taken to curb large scale road accidents taking place in Sonbhadra district of U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) The Ministry has come to know through Internet about the PIL and issues regarding stated non-payment of compensation to around 400 accident victims in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh

(b) Payment of Compensation to the road accident victims/legal heirs is specified in detail under chapter XII of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. This includes the procedure as well as the amount of compensation payable in case of motor vehicle accidents.

(c) The Ministry has not specifically identified roads in Sonbhadra district where large number of accidents are statedly taking place. However, the details of road projects on National Highways in Sonbhadra district sanctioned during the last three years including the current year by this Ministry are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Length (in Kms)	Original sanctioned cost/revised sanctioned cost (Rupees in lakhs)
1.	Strengthening from Km 263.535 to 278.00 of NH 75-E.	14.47	904.09
2.	Strengthening from Km 280.00 to 288.00 of NH 75-E.	8.00	558.33
3.	IRQP from Km 288.00 to 302.478 of NH 75-E (Rewa-Ranchi Road)	14.478	144.00
4.	IRQP from Km 211.20 to 63.535 of NH 75-E (Rewa-Ranchi Road)	52.335	2805.00

(d) The enforcement of various provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 to reduce road accidents is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Government. No specific proposal from Govt. of U.P. has been received by this Ministry to curb large scale road accidents taking place in Sonbhadra district of U.P. However, this Ministry has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users in general, which are as under :

- (i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.
- (ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, and enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector being implemented by the Ministry since 1997-98 under Plan activities.
- (iv) Setting up of Driving Training Schools in the country.
- (v) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.
- (vi) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (vii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (viii) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.
- (ix) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

No bids for some highway projects

295. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: