

(c) Yes, Sir. Priority has been given for development of road network in districts affected by Left Wing Extremism. 534 km length of National Highways and 248 km length of State Roads have been identified for development to 2-lane standards in 6 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism under a separate scheme. The aim of this scheme is to provide an efficient communication network for the remote areas to combat the extremists' activities in these areas as well as social upliftment of tribal people.

Acquisition of land for highway widening in Kerala

300. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been finalized for the acquisition of land for highway widening in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has finalized the next phase of development of highway in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has been informed of the decision of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to offer the same compensation and rehabilitation package as the State Government of Kerala has been offering in respect of public works undertaken by them and the Competent Authority for the same being a State Government official, can fix the compensation as per State rules which will be acceptable to the Centre.

(c) 685 km length of identified stretches of National Highways in Kerala is to be developed to two lanes with paved shoulders under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-IV on Public Private Partnership basis.

Road safety education to reduce road accidents

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

(a) whether Government has agreed to enhance road safety education to reduce fatal accidents and increase road safety education all over the country;

(b) the approximate number of deaths which occurred on the country's roads and highways in the period April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010;

(c) to what extent Government has addressed the demands of the Roads Safety Forum to hold exhibitions and camps to improve road safety;

(d) the details of collaborative action taken in this regard; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to conduct such camps and innovative measures to reduce road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to educate the general masses about road safety matters, the Government have been undertaking various publicity measures through DAVP and professional agencies in the form of telecast/broadcast of TV spots/Radio jingles, display of cinema slides, hoardings, organizing road safety week, seminars, exhibitions, All India Essay competition on Road Safety, Printing of handbills/stickers, posters, painting on road railings on themes of road safety, road safety games, calendars depicting road safety messages, etc. for various segment of road users viz. pedestrians, cyclists, school children, heavy vehicle drivers etc. Besides, in order to promote road safety education among school children, a Sub Committee has already been constituted by CBSE for developing specific chapter on road safety in the social science text book of Class VI to X.

In addition to above, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has also undertaken a road safety Public Education/awareness campaign on Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) [Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai and Delhi Kolkata, Chennai Kolkata].

(b) The data relating to number of deaths occurred on the country's roads and highways for the period April, 2010 to September, 2010 is not compiled yet in the Ministry. However, as per the latest data available in the Ministry for the year 2008, the number of persons killed due to road accidents were 42,670 (35.6%) on National Highways, 34081 (28.4%) on State Highways and 43109 (36.0%) on other roads.

(c) to (e) This Ministry has positively addressed the demands of Road Safety Forum to hold exhibition and camps to improve road safety. National Highways Authority of India has been asked to work out such an action plan in the State of Andhra Pradesh in association with the State

Government and reputed NGOs working for road safety. Depending on its success, more such exhibition and camps in other States will be organized. In addition, the Government has already taken steps to create a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management, which would oversee the entire road safety activities in the country including capacity building in the field of research, training on road safety and preparation of action plan for better administration of road safety etc. As an interim measure, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of this Ministry to oversee road safety and traffic management issues in a comprehensive manner. The Committee has recently recommended a Road Safety Action Plan to the Government.

By-pass on Visakhapatnam-Howrah NH

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

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has agreed to build a bypass around Salur on the Visakhapatnam-Howrah National Highway;
- (b) if so, what is the cost of this project;
- (c) by when this by-pass is likely to be completed;
- (d) what are the other by-pass works pending under the NHAI in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to complete such by-passes urgently in the interest of better traffic movement and road safety reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no plan for building a by-pass around Salur town on the Visakhapatnam-Howrah National Highway (NH-5) by NHAI. However feasibility studies for construction of a by-pass for Salur town on Raipur-Visakhapatnam National Highway (NH-43) has been taken up by State Government. After finalization of alignment land acquisition would be carried out by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and thereafter the cost estimate would be worked out. It is too early to indicate the date of completion of by-pass.

- (d) Details are furnished in the enclosed Statement (See below).
- (e) The projects are being vigorously monitored by the Ministry and NHAI for timely completion.