

(d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. Employment of Workers engaged in coal mines has not been included as a scheduled employment in the Central Sphere under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of new express highway between Mumbai-Surat

1659. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration with his Ministry in regard to construction of new Express Highway between Mumbai-Surat during the current five year plan period and current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon as on date;

(c) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey in view of road traffic and daily commuters on this route as inter-city transit by road and surface connectivity;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has also taken positive steps for this mega project in the national interest; and

(e) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be considered by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) There is a proposal for construction of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway under NHDP Phase-VI on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) which is proposed to pass through Surat District. A Consultant has been commissioned to prepare the Detail Project Report (DPR) for the project.

Construction of NHs

†1660. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the target of constructing 20 km. of National Highways every day as decided by Government;

(b) whether Government has failed to achieve this target;

(c) if so, the reasons for such shortfall; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details of National Highways constructed during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The target achieved on an average from June, 2009 to September, 2010 is 12.01 km. per day. In order to meet the target of constructing 20 km. of Highways per day, it is essential that at any given point of time approximately 20,000 km. of works are under way. Presently, National Highways development works are under way. Presently, National Highways development works are under implementation in a length of around 14,500 km. It is further targeted to award additional works in a length of around 10,000 km. before end of 2010-2011.

(b) and (c) Shortfall in achieving the targets are due to problems in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, environment and forest clearance, approval for Road Over Bridges as well as shortage of skilled/semi-skilled manpower and economic slowdown, as well as lesser number of projects having been awarded in the earlier years. In order to revamp national highways Development Projects and to expedite award of projects, the Government implemented the recommendations of B.K. Chaturvedi Committee report, wherein a number of measures were suggested relating to changes in bidding process, documentation, mode of delivery, etc. These measures are expected to generate increased investor interest. In order to expedite implementation of projects, regional offices have been set up by NHAI headed by Chief General Manager. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Managers who will expedite forest/environment clearances and monitor land acquisition matters as well as implementation of projects. Special land acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. State Governments have been requested to appoint Chief Secretaries as Nodal officers to expedite NHDP projects by removing bottlenecks, if any. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Head Quarter as well as field units.

(d) The target of 20 km./day was set in June, 2009. This was an overall target. No State-wise or national highway-wise target had been set.

Maintenance of roads during four laning by NHAI

†1661. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any clear-cut policy of Government regarding maintenance of roads during the construction periods of roads that are being made four-lane by National Highways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details of the policy;

(c) whether maintenance of Jaipur-Delhi National Highway 8 by National Highways Authority of India is being done according to the laid-down norms; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.