

(a) whether the speed of traffic is getting slower and pollution is increasing due to slow progress of expansion work on National Highway No. 8 from Surat to Dahisar (Mumbai) and National Highway No. 6 from Surat to Hazira;

(b) the details of steps being taken to complete these projects at an early date; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken for the expansion of road under the overbridge at Vaghaldhara at National Highway No. 8, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Speed restriction has been imposed in construction zones from safety consideration.

(b) The work on Sura-Dahisar section is in advanced stage of construction which is scheduled for completion in August, 2011. The work on Surat-Hazira section has commenced in 2010 and is scheduled for completion in September, 2012.

(c) No, Sir.

Policy for quality monitoring of roads

1647. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has changed its policy for quality monitoring of roads and national highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Common toll technology

1648. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government planned to introduce a common toll technology during the current year using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and to make the use of RFID tag in all vehicles mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has also received any representation for a minimized or nominal toll tax for the vehicles at the national highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, UIDAI to examine all technologies available for Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) and recommend the most suitable one for implementation throughout India. The Committee submitted its Report in July 2010 recommending adoption of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology based EPC, Gen-2, ISO-18000-6C standards for Electronic Toll Collection on National Highways in India. These recommendations have since been accepted by the Government for implementation. As per the available records, no representation has been received by the Government for a minimized or nominal toll tax for the vehicles at the National Highways.

Transshipment hub

1649. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's first transshipment hub is being created;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of benefits expected to the country from this hub?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K VASAN): (a) and (b) India's first International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Kochi envisages development of facilities for handling mother container ships of 8000+ Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) capacities. The facilities include 1800 metres berth and supporting handling equipments for annual throughput of 3 million TEU along with supporting infrastructure. In terms of the Licence Agreement between Cochin Port Trust and M/s India Gateway Terminal Private Ltd (IGTPL), the terminal is to be developed in phases. Phase-I of ICTT comprises of construction of 600 metres berth and development of stacking area and other allied facilities including supporting infrastructure of 17.2 KM four lane National Highway (NH) connectivity from Kalamassery to Vallarpadam, rail connectivity of 8.86 KM from Edappally to