

(a) the total number of proposals of Madhya Pradesh pertaining to construction of inter-State roads and bridges of economic importance pending as on December, 2010;

(b) the action taken thereon so far; and

(c) by when pending proposals are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) There were 10 (ten) nos. of proposals of Madhya Pradesh pertaining to construction of inter-State roads and bridges pending as on December, 2010. One proposal of economic importance for the construction of ROB in Madhya Pradesh was pending as on December, 2010.

(b) and (c) Approval to the proposals of roads, bridges and ROBs under Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) and Economic Importance (EI) is a continuous process and are accorded subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works.

Assistance for construction of important roads

†412. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides financial assistance to States for construction of important roads which connect sites of importance from the religious and tourism point of view;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance provided to different States including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years till December, 2010;

(c) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested to provide financial assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Union Government provides funds for development of National Highways and such State roads (other than rural roads) as proposed by State Governments under the scheme of Central Road Fund (CRF). Many of these roads connect sites of importance from the religious and tourism point of view. However, there is no exclusive scheme for providing funds for construction of roads to connect the religious and tourist places.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) Does not arise.

Investments from Chinese firms in highway sector

413. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:.

(a) whether Government has been encouraging more investments from Chinese firms in the highway sector;

(b) if so, the details of the Chinese firms in which Government has shown interest and assigned tasks for investments in highway project;

(c) whether Government has granted security clearance to such Chinese firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the norms of the selection of Chinese firms in the highway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) projects are awarded on the basis of international competitive bidding in which firms from all countries including China can equally participate. M/s Jiangsu Provincial Transportation Engineering Group Co. Ltd. (JPTEC) in Joint Venture with Indian companies recently participated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) of 4 projects namely Srinagar-Banihal, Udhampur-Ramban, Jammu-Udhampur and Piprakothe-Motihari-Raxaul. The project Srinagar-Banihal has been awarded to M/s Rarnky Infrastructure Ltd. — M/s JPTEC (JV) and project Priprakothe-Motihari-Raxaul has been awarded to M/s Tantia Construction Ltd. and M/s JPTEC (JV). Details of projects of NHAI being implemented by Chinese companies are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Security clearance has been obtained for engagement of Chinese firms in the awarded projects in Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar. The firms are selected based on international competitive bidding and selection norms prescribed in bid documents.