

vehicles owned by any person as it would amount to infringement on one's right to own property.

**20 km. of National Highway per day**

410. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has since achieved the target of constructing 20 km. of National Highway per day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there have been slippages in achieving the targets;
- (d) if so, the reasons for such shortfall; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The target achieved on an average from April, 2010 to December, 2010 is 9.90 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. The pace of award of contracts is being increased to bring more projects under implementation. Since highway projects have a gestation period of 4 to 5 years from inception, the rate of completion of construction will increase only progressively.

(c) to (e) 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. 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 Managers. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Managers who will expedite forest/environment clearance 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 Nodal officers for NHDP projects. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at HQ as well as field units.

**Pending proposals of inter-State roads**

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

(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.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi