

(f) There are no other such specific schemes to link districts in other States of the country with NHs, including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Indefinite strike by truckers union

3947. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an indefinite strike by truckers' union has been called in Southern India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the demands of the union;
- (d) the details of the position of Government with respect to the demands;
- (e) whether it is a fact that due to strike, the prices of vegetables have risen; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) An indefinite strike call was given by Southzone Motor Transporter's Welfare Association (SIMTA) for indefinite suspension of operation of buses and trucks from the midnight of 18th August, 2011, in the southern States and Maharashtra. The main issues raised by SIMTA and Government position thereon is as under:

- (i) An agreement was arrived at with All India Motor Transporters' Congress (AIMTC) on 04.12.2010 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways which has been formally notified by the Government by issuing Gazette notification dated 12.01.2011.
- (ii) BOT toll rates are based on long term concession agreements and have toll rate agreements upfront as an integral part of the contract. These rates cannot be amended unilaterally. It may also impact further private sector investments by way of PPP projects in the road sector. However, as far as public funded projects are concerned, regardless of their date of completion, as long as they are not part of any long term contract, Ministry has agreed to

implement the new Toll rates as and when notified. The Ministry has also agreed, in principle, to the demands of AIMTC for issuing notifications in respect of approximately 94 Public Funded Projects which were completed prior to 12.1.2011. The process for issue of notifications in respect of approximately 94 Public Funded Projects will commence urgently and completed as early as possible. Moreover, the issues relating to toll will be discussed on monthly basis with AIMTC by a Group consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Authority of India.

- (iii) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has not agreed to reduce the hike in third party insurance premium. The proposal submitted by AIMTC has been referred to IRDA.
- (iv) Government has taken a very positive view on some of the suggestions given by Transport Associations on Carriage by Road Act, 2007 and Carriage by Road Rules, 2011.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways tried its best to resolve the issue by way of holding discussions with transport associations in a number of meetings and the last on 23.08.2011. After the last meeting held on 23.08.2011, the Transporters Association called off their strike.

(e) and (f) As per the reports received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pudducherry and Maharashtra, transport services were affected to some extent. However, there was no report of any impact on transportation of essential commodities including supply of vegetables, fruits, food grains, petroleum products, milk etc.

Legislation to deal with digging up of roads

3948. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring forward a legislation or make any other statutory provision to deal with digging up of roads by civic and other agencies and by general public for public functions etc. to reduce the woes of road users in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?