

### **Expedition of National Highway Development Programme**

1330. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government received representation for expedition of National Highway Development Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has also been requested to double the strength of current board in NHAI for speeding up implementation of NHAI projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the other alternative measures taken by Government to meet the target of 20 km. per day; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. References received regarding National Highway Development Project (NHDP) are mainly for accelerating the construction of delayed projects, changing proposed alignment of some stretches, demand for new bypasses/flyovers/underpasses, reduction of Right of Way etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) In order to expedite implementation of NHDP, Government approved revamping of procedures by accepting the recommendations of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi Committee, which proposed various measures to accelerate the process of award of projects. Subsequently, the pace of award of projects has been increased. Annual pre-qualification of bidders has been introduced. Regional Offices each headed by Chief General Manager have been set up by NHAI for close monitoring of implementation of projects. Two zonal offices each headed by Executive Director have been set up at Bhopal and Bangalore for close monitoring of pre-construction activities. Achievement of targets is being monitored closely. Projects are periodically reviewed at field and at Head Quarter.

### **Deaths due to non-wearing of helmets**

1331. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths by two wheelers that have occurred in the country during the last five years due to the rider's not wearing helmet;
- (b) the steps Government has taken to ensure the implementation of traffic rules of wearing helmets;
- (c) whether Government has specified the standard of helmets for the riders and whether they are safe and provide adequate protection; and