

(c) the details of target fixed by Government to increase the network of National Highways in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The identified causes for hindrances in construction and maintenance of National Highways are poor performance of contractors, delay in obtaining forest/wild life clearances, clearances for ROBs, delay in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, left wing extremism (LWE) activities etc. In order to overcome these hindrances and expedite implementation of projects, close monitoring of pre-construction activities and achievement of targets is being done at regional level for the projects being carried out by all implementing agencies. Projects are also periodically reviewed at various levels. For LWE affected areas, State Governments are advised to prioritize the roads based on threat perception and to provide sufficient security by deploying State and Central forces during the execution of work as per requirement. To ensure better maintenance National Highways Authority of India is switching over from Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contracts on completed sections to Operate-Maintain-Transfer (OMT) concessions.

(c) The Ministry considers for increase in NH network through declaration of State roads as New National Highways from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Pathetic condition of NHS in Madhya Pradesh

2542. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister is aware of the pathetic conditions of many National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is handled directly by the National Highways Authority of India;

(c) whether it is a fact that earlier the State Government undertook repair and maintenance of NHs and the funds were reimbursed by Government later;

(d) whether it is a fact that the direct handling of NHs is confined only to the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) whether Government planned to revert to the earlier system in view of the large number of complaints about the conditions of Highways in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The National Highways (NHs) in the State of Madhya Pradesh are being maintained in traffic worthy condition keeping in view the traffic, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(b) to (e) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of NHs in the country. The works of development and maintenance of NHs are implemented on agency basis by different agencies such as State Public Works Departments (PWDs), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Different stretches of the National Highways are accordingly entrusted to these agencies. Maintenance of NHs entrusted with NHAI is done either directly by NHAI or through State PWDs. Portions of NHs in the State of Madhya Pradesh are being maintained by the respective agencies to which it is entrusted and the funds are allocated accordingly.

Road accidents in hilly States

2543. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing number of road accidents at various National Highways (NH)/ Express Highways in the country particularly in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of total accidents reported along with the number of persons killed in road accidents during each of the last three years, Statewise, NH-wise including NH-88 and 70; and

(c) the details of programmes/measures taken by Government to prevent road accidents on the NHs in hilly areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY): (a) The number of road accidents on National Highways throughout the country decreased marginally for the years 2007 and 2008 but again increased during the year 2009. However, the number of road accidents in Himachal Pradesh has shown decreasing trend during the same period.

(b) Details of State-wise/Union Territory wise number of total road accidents reported and number of persons killed in road accidents on National Highways (including Expressway) during each of the years 2007 to 2009 (the latest available data) is given in the Statement-I (See below).