National Highways (NHs). As per the suggestions of the Planning Commission, the Ministry has set-up an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Road Transport & Highways) with representatives from Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission also. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the IMC inter-alia includes identification of the 10,000 km of new NHs, out of the proposals received from the State Governments. The State-wise and length-wise details of these 10,000 km of State Roads have not yet been finalized.

Amendment of toll-tax rules

2566. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to amend toll-tax rules 2008 relating to road is being considered;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the mechanism evolved by Government for consideration of this proposal;

(d) whether representation of common people have been included in this mechanism for protection of their interest; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The following proposal to amend toll tax rules 2008 is being considered to remove the ambiguity in the threshold limit of Rs. 2.5 crore per kilometre at 1.4.2008 prices for collection of user fee for section of NH having two lanes on which the average investment for upgradation is Rs.2.5 crore per kilometre at the 1.4.2008 Prices by deleting the conditionality of "at the 1.4.2008 Prices" from the Sub Rule-3 of Rule-4 of NH Fee (Rules), 2008.

(ii) Prospective amendment to the NH Fee Rules, 2008 for incorporating the following provision to be applied to existing public funded projects which will be taken up for further lane up-gradation, is as follows:

"Increase in rates will be staggered in a phased manner. In the first phase, fee notifications for projects envisaging increase in rates up to 25% will be published on immediate basis. The balance of

the increase will be given effect along with normative increase due in next year(s). Staggering of increased rates along with the normal annual increase will not be more than 25% in one year."

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. On the basis of various inputs/recommendations from different stakeholders including common persons, a proposal is drafted for inter-ministerial discussions and after duly incorporating the comments of the departments/ministries consulted on the amendment proposal, of final agenda is considered by Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) for their approval. Lastly, the amended toll rule notification is issued after vetting of the same is done by Ministry of Law.

(e) Does not arise.

Toll roads in the country

2567. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are toll roads in the country;

(b) if so, the number of toll roads in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the toll is being collected by toll plazas;

(d) if so, the policy for collection of toll;

(e) whether any body is exempted from paying toll;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government would consider the demand of Press Reporters, correspondent, Photographer to exempt them from paying the toll; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State-wise details of toll roads/stretches of National Highways (NHs) in the country, where user fee is being collected are given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Toll is being collected at toll plazas and user fee collection is being done as per the provisions of National Highways Act, 1956 and rules made thereunder.