

- (a) whether NHAI tightens qualification norms for sub-contractors;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far; and
- (c) the transparency to be maintained in such contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c) Government, with a view to eliminate the possibility of unscrupulous bidders from bidding process, has approved amendments to the model Request for Qualification (RFQ) document for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) contracts wherein it is specified that the concessionaire would have to provide an undertaking to the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) that the Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) works for the project would be executed only by such EPC contractors, who have completed at least a single package of more than 20% of the Total Project Cost (TPC) or Rs. 500 crore whichever is less. This amendment was carried out as per the approved government norm based on the recommendations of the Chaturvedi Committee. Accordingly, based on the experience of NHA, when NHA Board adopted a resolution for effecting such an amendment, the same was carried out by the Government.

Restructuring of NHA

1175. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal to restructure National Highways Authority of India (NHA); and
- (b) 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. In order to make National Highways Authority of India (NHA) a multi-disciplinary professional body with high quality financial management and contract management expertise, the proposal of restructuring of NHA was approved by the Government on 20.7.2007.

The status on restructuring of NHA is periodically reviewed by Cabinet Secretary. Most of the decisions have been implemented and balance is at various stages of implementation as per details given below:

- Change in vision statement of NHA — **implemented**.

- NHA's Business model of outsourcing major activities to be essentially retained - **implemented.**
- Amendment in NHA Act, 1988 - **under implementation.**
- Increase in full time members (5 to 6) and part-time members (4 to 6) — **under implementation.**
- Selection of Chairman by Search Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary and fixing tenure of Chairman to 3 years extendable to 5 years - **implemented.**
- Prescribing experience for posts of Member (Finance) and Member (PPP) - **implemented.**
- Prescribing duties for the post of Member (Technical) - **implemented.**
- Creation of 7 specialized Cells, viz. Project Appraisal Cell, Planning Cell, Quality Assurance Cell, Standardization and R&D Cell (now renamed as Technology Induction Cell), Contract Management Cell, Legal & Arbitration Cell and Road Safety Cell - **implemented.**
- Creation of 26 posts of CGMs over and above existing 13 posts (2 - Finance, 1 - Planning & Quality, 1 - Standardization, R&D, 1 - Admn. & HR, 1 - IT, - LA, 1 - Legal, 1 - Safety, 1 - Financial Analyst, 1 - Contract Management Specialist and 15 - COM (Tech.) for Project implementation and Corridor Management - **implemented.**
- To consider State level institutions including some State Govts as 'partner institutions*' at regional level for implementation of some mandated works under NHA's umbrella - **implemented.**
- To identify and retain key persons and also recruit some personnel directly to build, over time, a core of permanent employees - **under continuous implementation.**
- To revisit the comprehensive training plan prepared by NHA for its employees in light of shift of focus from EPC to PPP and also to expand the plan to include consultants and contractors - **under continuous implementation.**
- Empowering the Authority to engage, where required, outside experts (with relaxation of age if needed), specially the posts of financial analyst, transport economist, transport planner, contract management specialist and legal experts; on compensation to be determined by the

Authority in line with the experience and availability of the appropriate personnel - **implemented.**

- To set-up a Knowledge Management System for capturing and using experiences in bid process, contract management, time, cost and quality performance of contractor and performance of design consultants in terms of abnormal variations - **implemented.**
- Financial Management - creation of Internal Audit Cell - **implemented.**

Ambulance scheme along toll gates

1176. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would introduce ambulance scheme along with toll gates on National Highways to prevent loss of life during the golden hours after the accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of mobile ambulances functioning on the National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. TUSHAR CHAUDHARY) : (a) to (c) As a component of incident management, ambulances are provided at an average stretch of 50 Km. on National Highways entrusted to National Highway Authority of India. PPP projects under the new Model Concession Agreement have provision for medical aid posts at each toll plaza which will have round the clock ambulance services for victims of accidents, to be made operational on commencement of commercial operations. The ambulances are stationed so as to reach the site of accident at the earliest.

Total 223 ambulances are available on various National Highways stretches entrusted to NHAI.

Action against contractors and official for delay

1177. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several projects of Highway building are running far behind the schedule giving way to escalation of costs;