

(d) The Development of Cruise Shipping Tourisms is not likely to directly benefit coastal shipping and fisheries.

(e) In order to facilitate growth of Indian Shipping industry, the government has already initiated several measures for the shipping sector such as:-

- Acquisition of all types of ships has been brought under the open general license.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the shipping and port sectors has been allowed to attract investments.
- All import contracts of Government Departments and PSLUs are finalized on FOB (Free on Board) basis through Transchart (Chartering Wing of Ministry of Shipping) with first right of refusal to Indian flag vessels.
- Tonnage tax system introduced during 2004-05 has effectively brought down the tax liability of shipping companies at a level comparable to the international levels from the previous levels of corporate tax regime.

#### **Mega Highway in Rajasthan**

†1186. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of kilometres sanctioned under Maga Highways and National Highways in the State of Rajasthan for the year 2011-12;

(b) the details of sanctioned amount and the agency along with the dates of commencement and completion of each of the work;

(c) whether Government proposes a plan for new Express Highway from Jaipur to Delhi;

(d) if so, the details of commencement and completion of the plan; and

(e) the details of four and six lane Highways to be sanctioned for the year 2011-12 and forthcoming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) Ministry has not sanctioned any project categorized as Mega Highways project during the year 2011-12 in the State of Rajasthan. Besides various National Highways Development Projects under various stages of implementation and award by National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry has sanctioned four works of aggregate amount of Rs. 80.84 crore for improvement of the stretches of three National Highways viz. NH-58 Ext, NH-148D and NH-758 in the State of Rajasthan, during the current financial year, for implementation by NHAI. Tenders for these works are yet to be finalized. The exact time frame for commencement/completion depends on the outcome of finalization of tenders.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, consultant for finalizing the alignment for new Expressway from Jaipur to Delhi has been appointed. Agreement for consultancy services has been executed by NHAI on 03.08.2011. The consultancy work for finalizing the alignment has already been started, which shall be followed by preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report. The exact time frame for commencement/completion depends on the outcome of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report.

(e) Kishangarh-Udaipur-Ahmedabad section (total length 555.50 km) on NH-79A, NH 79, NH 76 and NH 8, of which 434 km falls in the State of Rajasthan is envisaged for sanction under six laning, while a total length of 321 km comprising of 44 km of Reengus-Sikar section of NH 11, 33 km of Kota - Jhalawar section on NH-12 and 244 km of Beawar-Pali-Pindwara section on NH-14 is envisaged for sanction under four laning during 2011-12.

#### **Acquisition of Vessels by SCI under NMDP**

1187. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP);
- (b) whether it is a fact that as a part of NMDP, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) was to acquire 62 vessels by next year;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the company would be short of acquisition of about 20 vessels; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN) : (a) The Government formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) for accelerating the development of maritime sector in the country through investment in specific infrastructure, Tonnage acquisition and institutional capacity building projects/schemes.