

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Traffic jams have been observed due to congestion at toll plazas near urban areas in peak hours, near approaches to bridges/ROBs etc. under construction due to availability of reduced carriageway for existing traffic. Thus, traffic jams have been observed near the toll plazas at km 24 and km 42 of Delhi-Gurgaon stretch (NH-8), near Brajghat on Ganga Bridge (km 93 of NH 24), Rampur level crossing (km 181 of NH 24) etc.

(c) The following measures are adopted to ease the traffic jam:-

- i. Segregating local and through traffic
- ii. Providing additional lanes near toll plazas
- iii. Deploying traffic marshals at toll plazas
- iv. Providing proper signages near location of construction
- v. Construction of diversion roads where work is in progress.
- vi. Provision of extra toll collector at all Toll booths during peak hour
- vii. Taking up widening projects to keep pace with growth in traffic
- viii. Construction of bypasses

In order to suggest a comprehensive solution, a consultant has been appointed for Feasibility Study and preparation of DPR for improvement in traffic flow on service road between Ambience Mall and IFFCO Chowk along with Feasibility Study cum preliminary designs and costing of expansion of toll plaza at km 24 on NH-8. To ease the traffic flow in the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Lucknow stretch etc. widening projects are being taken up. Final feasibility study report for the Delhi-Meerut expressway project has been submitted.

Transparency in awarding NH projects

406. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently stressed the need to bring transparency in awarding highway projects to eliminate any suspicion of favouritism;

(b) whether Government proposes to encourage PPP in the road development sector; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government would prove that this model is based on transparency in awarding the contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Government is committed to encourage Public Private

Partnership (PPP) in the National Highway construction projects. The detailed PPP documents provide for transparency, competitiveness and eliminate any suspicion of favoritism. Further, e-procurement is being made mandatory from current financial year.

NHs passing through LWE districts

407. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when National Highways passing through Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas be doubled and specify time period;
- (b) the reasons for non-allotment of funds to States to maintain National Highway Roads, in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa;
- (c) by when Golden Quadrilateral Road (GQ) be completed 100 per cent including Orissa and Jharkhand; and
- (d) the reasons for taking it so long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) National Highways passing through Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are already two lane. Widening to 2-lane of National Highways passing through LWE affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha is included under various schemes of the Ministry. It is too early to indicate any time limit.

(b) Funds for maintenance of National Highways in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have been allocated.

(c) Out of 5846 km of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), 4/6 laning has been completed in 5828 km (99.7%). The GQ projects are completed in Jharkhand. 18 km remains to be completed in 7 projects in entire GQ including 4 projects in Odisha. The projects under implementation are likely to be completed by December, 2012.

(d) The GQ projects under implementation were mainly delayed as contracts had to be terminated due to non performance of contractors and new contracts awarded for balance works. In the State of Orissa, major delays have occurred due to delays in obtaining railway clearances, non availability of blasting license, non grant of quarry lease etc.

Implementation of new National Highways projects

408. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: