

**Increase of 50 per cent toll tax**

3029. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to increase the toll on all national highways by 50 per cent more than the prevailing toll;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details of facilities proposed to be made available for the highway users;

(c) the details of measures taken to make national and express highways accident free and the details of medical facilities available for highway users; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert two lane State and National Highways into four lane and if so, the details thereof together with the details of State and National Highways selected for the said conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) A proposal for amendment of the National Highways Fee (Determination and Collection) Rules, 2008 for rationalizing toll rate structure is under consideration.

(c) The following steps have been taken to make national and express highways accident free:

- (i) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at the planning stage.
- (ii) Road Safety Audit of selected stretches of National Highways/ Expressways,
- (iii) Identification of black spots and treatment thereof.
- (iv) Establishment of driving training institutes.
- (v) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles like helmets, seat belts, power-steering, rear view mirror,
- (vi) Publicity campaigns on road safety awareness.

Medical facilities available for highway users on road accidents are being provided under the scheme "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme" (NHARSS). Under this scheme ambulances and cranes are provided to States/UTs/ NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of road accidents by way of

evacuating road accident victims to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site. So far, 347 Ten ton cranes, 106 small/medium size cranes and 509 ambulances have been provided under the scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir. The programme for conversion of existing two lane National Highway sections to 4-lane standards has mainly been included under the approved National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phases I, II, III as well as limited length under NHDP Phase IV for a total of 30,867 kms.

#### **Special Accelerated Road Development Programme**

3030. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocation made, amount sanctioned, released and utilization made towards development of road network in North Eastern Region, State-wise under the programme Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) since its formation till date; and

(b) the details of the proposals being taken up by Government for construction of new highway including by-passes and double-laning, upgradation, repairing of National Highways under SARDP-NE, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The year-wise amount of work sanctioned, allocation made and expenditure incurred on works of SARDP-NE since beginning, State-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See below*)

(b) The scope of SARDP-NE works include construction of new road and upgradation of existing road. There is no proposal of repair of existing road in the scope of SARDP-NE. However, provisions are included for strengthening of existing road while its upgradation. The National Highways included under SARDP-NE for upgradation is given in the Statement-II