

(e) whether it is also a fact that now the common passengers of the country pay the taxes and cess imposed by the Central and the State Governments and toll and tariffs imposed by private sector, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) The strategy of the Government is to promote investment with public-private participation, in National Highways projects for harnessing efficiency, technological advancement and better maintenance of the public assets during their respective lifecycles to supplement publicly-funded endeavour. Accordingly, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has adopted Build-Operate-Transfer [BOT] (Toll) mode of delivery under public private partnership (PPP) as the preferred mode for development of highway projects.

(c) and (d) The construction cost of roads varies based on parameters like topography, availability of material resources and climatic conditions etc. "The-user-should-pay" is the policy of the Government according to which the user fee charges as determined by the Government are mandated to be charged from the user.

(e) Government has laid down toll policy in the form of National Highway Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008 as amended from time to time for systematic revenue generation for BOT (Toll) projects, which are used by the concerned concessionaires to provide revenue streams for reasonable return on the private investment made by them in development and maintenance of highways. Toll or user charges is only one of the sources of the revenue apart from cess or other taxes, which are utilized for upgradation and strengthening of Highways Infrastructure.

Corruption in Highway Projects

†2398. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report of World Bank, highway project being run in the country are infested with corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has received any complaints pertaining to corruption in highways projects;

(d) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry into the complaints; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to make those projects corruption free?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have forwarded a report of the World Bank's Institutional integrity unit alleging that some companies executing World Bank funded projects have committed sanctionable practices. Ministry has constituted a committee to conduct an enquiry in the matter.

Land Acquisition for formation of Hassan Bypass

2399. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of Road Transport and Highways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government seeking approval to the second revised estimate for land acquisition for formation of Hassan Bypass on the Bangalore-Mangalore section of NH-48, at a cost of Rs. 1,99,68,678;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry had considered the proposal; and

(c) the outcome thereof and when will the State Government be advised of the same?

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

(c) The compliance to the observations of the Ministry on the second revised estimate for land acquisition for formation of Hassan Bypass is yet to be received from the State Government.

Narrow Bridges on National Highways in Chhattisgarh

†2400. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of such national highways in Chhattisgarh which still have narrow bridges;

(b) the number of bridges being extended, the district-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of bridges remaining to be extended, the action being taken in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) There are 9 numbers of National Highways (NHs) in Chhattisgarh which still have narrow bridges.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.