

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to impose a uniform road tax throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) As per the Constitution of India, taxation of motor vehicles including cars is a State subject. A Group constituted under Task Force of Transport Development Council, which also includes representatives of some of the State Governments, has recommended one time tax in all States with a floor rate of 6% of the sale price of cars, with flexibility to the States, to charge higher rate of tax in general or on specific models.

(b) The issue regarding harmonisation of motor vehicle taxes was considered in the 34th meeting of the Transport Development Council held on 13.02.2012 and the Council recommended for referring the issue to an Empowered Group of Ministers of States after agreeing on a broad framework for arriving at a consensus.

#### **Poor Connectivity in NE States**

1785. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the connectivity of roads is very poor in North East States;
- (b) if so, whether Government has requested to the State Government to improve connectivity of roads to ensure the industrial development;
- (c) if so, the response of the States in this regard; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take to provide assistance to North East States to improve connectivity of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Ministry is primarily responsible for development & maintenance of National Highways. The National Highways are being maintained in traffic worthy condition depending upon inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(d) The Ministry has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE), for upgradation of 10141 km road stretches of National Highways and State roads, which is in various stage of implementation, for enhancing the road connectivity in the North East States.

#### **Companies Assigned Work by NHAI in Assam**

1786. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of companies assigned work in Assam by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), name-wise;