

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) The details of total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry, group-wise i.e. Group A to Group D, is, Group A-297, Group B - 368, Group C - 376 and Group D - 36. This includes both Technical posts and non-technical posts.

(b) The number of jobs earmarked for SC/ST category in technical posts is Group A, SC-06, ST-03, Group B, SC-12, ST-04, Group C, SC-63, ST-27 and Group D, SC-05, ST-02. For the non-technical posts except Group C, this Ministry is not the cadre controlling authority, hence the reservation policy is implemented by the respective cadre controlling authorities.

(c) Does not arise.

Target Fixed for Construction of NHs

1801. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received proposals from various State Governments regarding construction of NHs during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed for construction of NHs during the said period has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of proposals received from various State Governments for construction of National Highways (NHs) and approved during the last three years and the current years are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1796, Part (C)]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Progress in implementation has been affected due to poor performance of contractors, delays in obtaining forest/wild life/railway clearances, law & order problems in some States, delay in land acquisition etc.

NH passing through Corridors of Odisha

1802. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of by-passes on National Highways passing through busy Corridors that have been proposed by State Government of Odisha;

(b) if so, whether alignment plans have been approved and funds provided for pre-constructions activities; and

(c) what action has been taken for construction and completion of by-passes within KBK districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) Based on the proposals of the State Government of Odisha, feasibility study and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for nine (9) nos. of bypasses on different busy corridors of National Highways in the State, including those within Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts, have been sanctioned and alignment plans for the same have been approved by Ministry. The allocation of fund for the development of National Highways (NHs) are not made project specific. However the same are made to the respective States/Union Territories based on existing liabilities of sanctioned works vis-a-vis availability of funds.

(c) The construction of bypasses within (KBK) districts would be taken up based on inter-se priority and subject to viability of the projects and availability of funds.

Funds for Maintenance of National Highways

1803. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that due to wide gap between requirement of funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways and allocation of funds for the purpose, many National Highways are in a deplorable condition;

(b) whether the allocation in respect of highways entrusted to State PWDs is even of a lower order especially in backward States in the eastern region; and

(c) whether any proposal from the State of Odisha has been received for special allocation to restore the highways severely damaged during the heavy rains in the current year and the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) State-wise allocation of funds for Maintenance & Repair (M&R) of National Highways (NHs) are made on the basis of availability of funds, lane-length distribution of NHs, traffic density, terrain, condition of NHs and inter-se priority of works.

The non-plan allocations that are annually provided by the Ministry of Finance to this Ministry for M&R of NHs are of the order of about 40% of the actual requirements as per the Ministry's stipulated norms.