

(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.

However, the Ministry endeavors to ensure optimum utilization of the available funds for maintenance by allocating funds on the basis of length of NH network and the condition of the NHs to all States including the States in the eastern region.

(c) As per assessments made during 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 18.00 crore is required for carrying out temporary restoration works in damaged stretches of NHs due to heavy rains during the current financial year, in the State of Odisha. However, keeping in view the limited availability of funds for M&R of NHs, allocation of Rs. 5.03 crore was made to the State Government of Odisha during 2011-12 for carrying out temporary restoration works to these damaged stretches of NHs.

Rationalisation of Vehicle Registration

1804. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to rationalise the vehicle registration and other taxes levied on vehicles in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) the time by which the rationalisation of vehicular taxes is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) to (c) The Cabinet has approved, inter-alia, the proposed Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2011 on 01.03.2012 to issue the certificate of registration to the owner of motor vehicle within a period of 30 days. The proposed penalty for not applying for registration/renewal of registration within the prescribed period has been stipulated as not less than one hundred rupees and not more than five hundred rupees for motor cycle and not less than five hundred rupees and not more than one thousand rupees for all other motor vehicles.

As per Constitution of India, taxation of motor vehicles is a State subject. However, the issue regarding harmonisation of motor vehicle taxes was considered in the 34th meeting of the Transport Development Council held on 13.02.2012. The Transport Development Council recommended for referring the issue of rationalisation of motor vehicle taxes to an Empowered Group of Ministers of States after agreeing on a broad framework for arriving at a consensus on this issue.

(d) Since the rationalisation of vehicular taxes is a State subject, no time frame can be given.