

**Passenger cruise service proposed by MPT**

2613. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) proposes to start passenger cruise service for the benefit of tourists;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed cost involved, its logistics etc.;
- (c) the date on which the service is likely to commence; and
- (d) the response of the concerned State Government?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) to (c) Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) does not operate nor has any proposal to start passenger cruise services itself. MPT's endeavour is to develop and provide Port related service which includes berthing facilities for passenger cruise ships.

To facilitate cruise tourism and further improve cruise shipping related infrastructure, MPT has recently constructed two new cruise berths with a length of 450 meters and 250 meters for the berthing of cruise ships. These berths will have exclusive entry and exit gates manned by Customs, immigration and security staff. The newly constructed cruise berths will commence its operations from October, 2012.

- (d) The state Government also encourages the cruise shipping activities as it benefits the local economy as a result of spending by the cruise tourists.

**Shifting of toll plazas on NH-5**

2614. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received public representations and/or proposals from the State Government of Odisha regarding shifting of certain toll plazas on NH-5 and NH-5A;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

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

(b) We have received request for shifting of fee plazas at Manguli, Panikoili, Gangapada on NH-5 and Srirampur on NH-5A.

(c) The matter regarding location of fee plazas within the State of Odisha was discussed in a meeting held on 03.08.2009 between Union Minister RT&H and Chief Minister, Odisha. In that meeting, it was decided that all Odisha registered vehicles will pay toll from 01.10.2009 at all the plazas and Santoshpura fee plaza will be shifted to Laxmanatha by NHAI. Accordingly, NHAI has shifted the Santoshpura fee plaza to Laxmanatha and was made operational from 07.01.2010.

#### **Flawed designing of National Highways**

2615. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a study has found that wrong designing of highways in various parts of the country is one of the major cause of accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Ministry has identified 25 black spots on roads in each of the 13 States, which account for more than 90 per cent of accidents in the country. Action has been initiated for taking engineering measures to address the problem. Road safety has also been made an integral part of road design at the planning stage and Road Safety Audit is being conducted in selected stretches of National Highways. In addition, ten percent of Annual Plan has been earmarked, during the current financial year, for road safety related works.

#### **Composition of National Land Reforms Council**

2616. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

SHRI SABIR ALI :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the composition of Members in the National Land Reforms Council headed by Prime Minister;