

- (b) Do not arise.

Installation of RETD System at toll plazas

†1832. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country incurs a loss of thousands of crores of rupees due to toll plaza every year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that fuel worth thousands of crores of rupees are getting wasted due to traffic jam on toll plazas in the country every year;
- (c) if so, the measures being taken to check such huge loss; and
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID) on the toll plazas across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) No conclusive study available, but the government has undertaken the work of implementation of Electronic Toll Collection system on the National Highway in the country.

- (d) Yes, Sir.

Funds for NHs in Assam

1833. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds that were sanctioned and released for the construction of National Highways (NHs) included in 2011-12, Annual Plan for Assam;
- (b) whether there were any reasons for undue difference in the amount sanctioned and released ; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JATIN PRASADA): (a) A sum of Rs. 230.00 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 197.04 crores was released for the construction of National Highways (NHs) in Annual Plan 2011-12 for the state of Assam.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Government of Assam could not utilize the allocated funds due to litigation in awarding of 3 nos of contract packages.

Environmental clearances for road projects

1834. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the delay in environmental clearances have inflated the cost of many road projects;

(b) the number of road construction projects delayed due to wait in environmental clearance;

(c) the number of overall road projects awaiting environmental clearances; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to seek timely environmental clearances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). Generally projects are started only after obtaining environment clearance. Majority of the projects are being taken up on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, which does not involve cost escalation.

(c) A total of 347 cases including cases with Border Roads Organization (BRO) are pending for environmental and forest clearances.

(d) This Ministry is constantly pursuing the matter with Ministry of Environment and Forests and as a result some of the projects have got cleared.

National safety policy for road accidents

1835. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons injured and died in the road accidents in the country in 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(b) the status of the implementation of national safety policy with respect to road accidents; and

(c) the changes in national safety policy that the Ministry contemplates to make?