(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) A total number of 1,34,513 persons were killed and 5,27,512 were injured in road accidents during the calendar year 2010. During the calendar year 2011, 1,42,485 persons died and 5,11,394 were injured in road accidents.

(b) During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, emphasis has been given for implementation of National Road Safety Policy on 6 Es (earlier 4 Es) *i.e.* education, enforcement, engineering (roads), engineering (vehicles), emergency care and enactment, strengthening of institutional mechanism and important other issues like establishment of road safety database, safer vehicles, enforcement of safety laws, safety vulnerable road users road safety traffic education and training, emergency medical service for road accidents through networking of ambulance, cranes, interceptors supported by a call centre with a toll free no. operated on 24x7 basis etc.

For better implementation of the policy, a National Workshop on "improving the safety of most vulnerable road users" was held at New Delhi on 03.04.2012. Besides, a meeting was also held with State Transport Ministers on 31st July 2012 in New Delhi in which the states were advised to draw up an annual action plan for road safety and strengthen the institutional mechanism at the state level to address road safety issues. This includes setting up of state road safety councils and district road safety committees, setting up of road safety funds by pooling of 50% of the penalties realized by way of compounding of traffic offences, identifying and rectification of black spots on state highways and rural roads, setting up of more driving schools with private participation, inclusion of road safety curriculum in school syllabus etc. They were also advised to share their experiences and to adopt the good practices prevalent in the other states.

(c) Ministry is not contemplating any change in the national road safety policy.

Length of highways being constructed

†1836. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry's target of constructing 20 kilometres of road per day is not being achieved presently;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.