

Infrastructure investment by National Highways Authority of India

*229. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has called for tenders for construction of roads;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that there has been a poor response from contractors in spite of offering subsidy;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) The remedial steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are variety of reasons for poor response ranging from delays in land acquisition processes, forest environment clearances, availability of equity capital, lenders' stretched resources and general market conditions.

(d) Several measures have been taken by the Government in this regard, such as:

- (i) Fast track clearances,
- (ii) High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of State for land acquisition,
- (iii) Committee of Secretaries under the Cabinet Secretary to discuss inter-ministerial issues, and
- (iv) Constant interaction at the highest level with concessionaires and other stakeholders.

Cancer deaths among women

*230 SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one out of four cervical cancer patients is an Indian;