

Highway-33 connecting Tezpur in Assam with Tawang of Arunachal Pradesh are motorable;

(b) if not, the details of their current status; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to make these National Highways all weather motorable to facilitate speedy movement of transport during emergency situations in view of strategic location of these National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the Country. Widening of NH-52 from Jonai to Dirak, of about 335 km. length to 2-lane standard has been sanctioned and is targeted for completed by March, 2016, except for a length of about 25 km. which is being maintained in traffic worthy condition. As regards the road connecting Tezpur in Assam with Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, only a portion of the road from Tezpur to Balipara and from Nechipu to Tawang are part of NH-52 and NH-229 respectively. The portion of NH-52 is maintained in traffic worthy condition by Assam PWD and the Border roads Organisation in developing the portion of NH-229 to 2-lane standard.

#### **Introduction of national standard for driving licences**

1228. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 997 RTOs issue 1.5 crore fresh or renewed driving licences every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at least one lakh people die every year on Indian roads due to drivers' fault;

(c) whether Government is considering to bring in a national standard to ensure that only trained people can drive vehicles on roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information, 1,03,698 persons died in road accidents due to drivers fault during the year 2011.

(c) and (d) Chapter-II of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Chapter-II of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 lay down detailed procedure for grant of driving licence. The licencing authorities of the States are required to ensure that only competent persons are granted driving licence.

#### **High toll rates**

1229. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the All India Motor Transport Congress, the current toll policy lacks transparency, accountability and affordability;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that toll charges are pinching the transport community and the common man very dearly;
- (c) whether the toll policy is highly in favour of private builders; and
- (d) what steps Government is taking to revisit the toll policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) No, Sir. However All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) have been raising some issues in the meetings held in the Ministry. In one such meeting AIMTC was requested to submit a detailed proposal with statistics on reforms and alternatives in taxation and toll policy for augmenting the funding requirement for the Government for the construction/maintenance of national highways. The same is still awaited.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Sir, as and when need arises user Fee Rules are amended in public interest.

#### **Proposals for maintenance of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh**

†1230. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding construction and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.