

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is alleged fraud practices and graft adopted by private constructors in highway projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) to (c) World Bank's Institutional integrity unit in its report has alleged that some companies executing World Bank funded projects in respect of contract packages WB-9, WB-10, WB-12 under Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project (LMNHP) in the State of Bihar, contract package IV-A under Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project (GTRIP) in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and contract package V-C under Third National Highways Project (TNHP) in the State of Jharkhand have committed sanctionable practices. Ministry had constituted a committee to conduct an enquiry and the committee had submitted its report. Accordingly, NHAI has been asked to verify the consequences occurred on the outcome of the projects in terms of quality or project completion and take appropriate action as per provisions of agreements with the contractors/supervision consultants.

#### **Digitization of driving licences**

1232. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to digitize all driving licences throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any time-frame has been adopted for all-out implementation of the policy; 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. The Ministry is implementing a Plan scheme for issue of driving licences in digital mode throughout the country.

(c) and (d) Necessary hardware and software and other facilities have been made available by the Ministry to all the States/Union Territories for issuing driving

licences in digital mode. However, since driving licences are issued by the authorities of the Transport Departments of the States/Union Territories, decision regarding complete implementation of the scheme is to be taken by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

**Incidents of looting on Delhi-Agra National Highway**

1233. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in incidents of looting on the Delhi-Agra National Highway between Faridabad and Hodal in Haryana;

(b) if so, the action taken to check looting incidents on the said National Highway;

(c) whether Government has identified the gangs involved in the looting of passengers on the National Highway;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken to check their activities; and

(e) how many persons have been arrested so far in the matter?

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

(b) to (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has continued to urge to the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations to give more focused attention for improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for prevention and control of crime.

**Waste oil container lying at major ports**

1234. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waste oil containers in large numbers are lying unclaimed in various ports;