

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. The DND expressway doesn't fall within the purview of this Ministry as it is a State Government project.

(c) There is no plan of this Ministry to construct expressway between Sarita Vihar in Delhi and Noida.

(d) Does not arise.

Multiple revision of toll rates

2777. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uniform policy for revision of toll charges on National Highways and Expressways across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken note of the frequent protests by road users against the present practice of multiple revision of toll rates linked to Wholesale Price Index; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to do away with the practice of multiple revision and make it an annual affair at the earliest?

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

(b) Government has notified the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 on 5.12.2008, as amended from time to time, for the projects taken up on or after 05.12.2008. For the stretches completed before 5th December, 2008 the fee collection is as per the National Highways (collection of Fees by any person for the use of Section of National Highways/Permanent Bridge/Temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules, 1997; the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge - Public Funded Project) Rules, 1997; and the National Highways (Rate of Fee) Rules, 1997 for those completed after the date of notification of these Rules. The abovementioned Rules have been notified under Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956. The user fee

on a stretch of National Highway is collected as per the individual Notifications published in the Official Gazette by the Central Government. In cases where a particular stretch of National Highway is entrusted to a State Government/UT, they comply with the Notifications issued by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The revision of user fee is being done as per the provisions of applicable fee rules. For projects under NH (Fee) Rules, 1997 the revision of fee is after every five year and for projects under NH (Fee) Rules, 2008 as amended from time to time, revision of fee is being done annually.

Demand for removal of liquor shops along highways

2778. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Safety Forum had demanded for the removal of all liquor shops along the roads and highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of this demand;

(c) whether the Road Safety Forum has been voicing this demand for a long time;

(d) whether Government has held a meeting with the Forum to obtain all the details and statistics in this regard; and

(e) the action proposed to enhance road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) to (c) This Ministry has received suggestions from Dr. P. Pullarao, President, Road Safety Forum, Andhra Pradesh from time to time in which it was suggested that the Government of India should instruct National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to block access to all liquor shops on the National Highways. It was also suggested that an advisory be issued instructing all state governments, to remove liquor shops along the state highways.

The matter of removal of liquor shops along Highways was discussed in the 7th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) held on 15.1.2004 in New Delhi and it was unanimously agreed that the licenses for liquor vends should not be given along National Highways. The Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary