

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Major factors responsible for accident are drivers' fault, fault of passengers, defect in vehicle, poor light condition, falling boulders, stray animals, weather condition, roadway condition, etc. However, it has been observed that drivers' fault is the single most important factor responsible for accidents. As regards maintenance of National Highways (NHs), the maintenance of NHs is a continuous process and all the NHs in the country are kept in traffic worthy condition from time to time within the available resources.

(b) to (e) Complaints regarding non-maintenance of toll NHs are received from time to time and actions against such contractors/concessionaires are taken as per the provision specified in the contract/concession agreement.

Abduction of 22 crew members

1976. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of parents from Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab appealed to the Government recently to intervene with regards to abduction of 22 crew members on board chemical tanker MT Royal Grace; which was hijacked on March 2, 2012 near Oman by Somali pirates; who are threatening to kill Indian crew members; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard on humanitarian grounds, for release of Indian crew members by the Shipping Ministry with the cooperation of External Affairs Ministry and Defence Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The vessel 'Royal Grace' is reported to have been released on 8.3.2013 and all the crew members are reported to be safe.

Roads constructed in Rajasthan during 2012-13

†1977. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Rajasthan where National Highways were constructed during 2012-13 and the length thereof in kilometers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.