

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.

(b) the number of National Highways in respect of which the work is in progress in the State and when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) During the year 2012-13, so far, construction of National Highways (NHs) have been carried out for an aggregate length of 293 Km. on various NHs in different places of Rajasthan.

(b) Presently there are 73 works in different stages of progress on 20 NHs in Rajasthan and 90% of these works are scheduled to be completed by the year 2014 and remaining by the year 2015.

Security of bidders in port projects

1978. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has framed new guidelines for processing the security clearance of bidders in respect of port projects including dredging projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the new guidelines the practice of seeking security clearance on a project-to-project basis from the Ministries of Home, Defence, External Affairs, the IB and the Cabinet Secretariat will continue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A copy of the guidelines is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Security clearance is sought on project-to-project basis from the security agencies. However, under the new guidelines once security clearance is granted to a company, it will be valid for three years unless there is any change in management control of the company or change of more than 10% in shareholding in the company by any shareholder.

Statement

Guidelines for processing the security clearance of bidders in respect of port projects including Dredging Projects

DREDGING PROJECTS:

1. In respect of Dredging projects, the Ministry of Shipping would share the list of dredging companies/bidders with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of