Source: Emigration Services Division, MOIA.

Obstacles in land acquisition for expansion of NHS

*80. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether land acquisition has been remaining a severe obstacle for the expansion of National Highways across the country;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by Government to remove such obstacles and to achieve the target of expansion of National Highways within the stipulated period of time; and

(c) whether keeping in view the obstacles in the expansion of National Highways, the NHAI has now decided to start repair work on NHs, and if so, the details of the repair works to be carried on the NHs and total expenditure to be made for the task?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The obstacles faced in acquisition of land includes poor/ un-updated revenue records, frequent transfer of Competent Authorities for land acquisition, different set of provisions of payment of compensation in National Highways Act 1956 and Land Acquisition Act 1894, problem in transferring the land belonging to other departments, time lost in arbitration etc. Regular meetings are held with the States for expediting the acquisition of land besides taking the following action:
 - (i) Regional offices headed by Chief General Manager (CGM) have been set up for effective monitoring of implementation of projects;
 - (ii) Adequate powers have been delegated to the CGMs of Regional Offices in land acquisition;
 - (iii) High Powered Committees have been set up by State Governments with Chief Secretaries as Nodal Officer for National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Projects and the Regional CGMs as a Member thereof;
 - (iv) Special Land Acquisition Units (SLAU) have been set up in some States;
 - (v) Signing of State Support Agreement (SSA).
- (c) Maintenance & Repair is a continuous process and carried out regularly by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) till the appointed date is achieved.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTION

Safety audit of the atomic power plants

466. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: