

been increased more than double during the last three years consequently the common public are facing difficulty in this period of inflation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the basis for increasing rates of toll tax under Government rules; and

(c) the heads under which income earned from toll tax is spent by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Government has notified the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & 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 above mentioned Rtdes 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. The Quantum of user fee levied depends on the length of the stretch and is revised annually based on the Wholesale Price Index as per rule. The user fee so collected by the NHAI is immediately remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).

#### **Fast construction of roads in naxal belts**

1514. SHRI. BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State/UT Governments have asked the Union Government for additional police force to help fast construction of roads in naxal belts in their region, if so, the details thereof:

(b) whether such a help was asked for by the Odisha State, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of road projects that have been held up for completion in naxal regions of Odisha State; and

(d) the action to help the State Government to ensure completion of such road projects in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There have been consistent demands of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for deployment in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas for anti-naxal operations and also for security of roads, highways etc. In order to assist the State Police Forces in combating LWE menaces, CAPFs have been deployed in the LWE affected States for anti-naxal operations. CAPFs are provided to the States as per their requirement and availability of additional battalions (Bns) with CAPFs. Recently, the MHA has ordered for deployment of 10 additional battalions of CAPFs in the naxal affected States of Bihar (1Bns), Jharkhand (5 Bns), Chhattisgarh (2 Bns) and Odisha (2 Bns) to strengthen the operational efficacy of the State Police Forces. In addition to the above, the Government has approved raising of 10 Special India Reserve Battalions (SIRB) in the LWE affected States (Bihar-2, Chhattisgarh-2, Jharkhand-1, MP-1, Odisha-3 and WB-1) and conversion of 3. IR Bns (already sanctioned, but unraised) into SIRB in the States of Andhra Pradesh (1), Jharkhand (1) and Maharashtra (1).

(c) 11 works in Odisha are delayed beyond the original target date of completion mainly due to law and order problems.

(d) MoRTH had requested State Government to constitute District Level Coordination Committee headed by District Magistrate comprised of District SP, Central Armed Forces, State PWD and Contractor to plan and proceed with the area Domination by Armed Forces in respect of such delayed works.

#### **Capacity of ports**

1515. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to enhance the capacity of ports in India, if so, magnitude of shortage;