

Highways projects failed to attract bidders

3982. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that highway projects worth over Rs. 1900 crore have failed to attract bidders;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps that Government is contemplating to take to improve the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In the last financial year, no bids were received in case of 16 Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects with a total project cost of Rs. 18600 crore. The reasons behind poor response include poor market sentiments, lack of equity with the concessionaire, unavailability of debt with the financial institutions, procurement of soil/earth/aggregates, etc. The issues of delinking environmental clearance from forest clearance and exempting linear stretches from the requirement of NOC from Gram Sabha have been resolved. Reserve Bank of India has given dispensation to treat the debt due to lenders, to the extent assured by Project Authorities in terms of concession agreement, as secured loan. Further, Government has decided to award contracts on Engineering Procurement and Contract (EPC) basis also. Nodal Committee has also been set up at State level to expedite pre-construction activities.

Projects under EPC mode

3983. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of highway construction projects under EPC mode (engineering, procurement and construction) that have been awarded since 2009;
- (b) whether there have been irregularities between funds released and projects which are still on hold;
- (c) if so, the details of the status of the projects which are on hold along with funds released for the same; and
- (d) the steps that Government intends to take to complete the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Development of National Highways (NHs) on lumpsum/turnkey basis is a new mode and recently adopted by the Government, which is called as Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC). Three projects covering a length of 147 km. have been awarded under EPC mode during the current financial year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Checking of overloading of vehicles at toll plazas

†3984. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether overloaded vehicles are the major factor leading to road accidents and damaging of national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of accidents that took place due to overloading during each of the past three years and current year;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to check overloading of the vehicles particularly on toll plazas; and

(d) if so, the amount charged from the overloaded vehicles as penalty during the said period and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) It is a matter of fact that overloaded vehicles are responsible for road accidents and damaging of national highways. The details of road accidents caused due to overloaded vehicles during 2009-2011, are given as under:—

Year	Number of road accidents due to overload of vehicles
2009	96,012
2010	109,357
2011	100,238

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.