

(a) whether there is an inordinate delay in the implementation of highway projects due to shortage of technical officers/engineers at various stages in the Highway sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects affected due to such reasons; and

(c) the steps being taken to overcome such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Road and Transport regulator

3876. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is looking at setting up a road and transport regulator to address the issues of delays in development of projects and work on ways to remove the hurdles in the sector;

(b) if so, what would be its key functions; and

(c) by when, it will come into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced to constitute a regulatory authority for the road sector to address the challenges such as financial stress, enhanced construction risk and contract management issues that are best addressed by an independent regulator. The matter has been examined in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Further consultation with various stakeholders on the issue of setting up of the proposed independent regulator is currently underway to address important issues like scope of the proposed regulator, degree of autonomy and its legal framework. Accordingly, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time frame.