

Calculation of toll tax in Himachal Pradesh

†870. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any comprehensive policy to calculate toll tax especially from Delhi to Himachal Pradesh as toll tax is being levied at 2-3 places in Haryana only;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is formulating any plan to the effect that this toll tax is not recovered from Government officials especially Central Government officials; and

(c) if so, the States in which it will be implemented, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) User fee is being levied and collected as per the provisions of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Rules, 2008, as amended from time to time and concession agreement. There is no proposal under consideration for exempting Govt. official from paying user fee.

(c) Does not arise.

Fast track construction of roads under BOT

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

(a) whether it is proposed to bring in a new system to fast track construction of roads under Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) process, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is proposed to grant certain exemptions to the developers in the matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to boost sentiment of investor/lender and encourage more investment in the road sector. These include formation of high level Expert Settlement Advisory Committee for one time settlement of old cases pending in the courts; to complete all pre-construction approvals prior to award of a project; streamlining the process of grant of Environment Clearances by the Ministry of Environment & Forests; facilitating exit to equity investors to unlock growth capital for utilisation in future projects and infuse fresh capital into the sector and to let Financial Institutions consider debts to the road sector as 'secured' to the extent assured in terms of Concession Agreement. In addition, a proposal to re-schedule premium payments, keeping its Net Present Value (NPV) intact, in languishing highway projects is also under active consideration of the Government.

Length of NHs converted into four/six lane

872. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highway roads (in kms), converted into four/six-lane in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of road projects taken up by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under implementation in the State along with their present status; and

(c) the details of the delayed projects, if any, along with the reasons therefor and time by which these delayed projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) 343 km. length of National Highways (NHs) has been converted into four/six-lane in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year.

(b) and (c) Status of ongoing and delayed road projects taken up by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under implementation in Madhya Pradesh are given in the Statement.