

2013. Further, a new 4-lane bridge is envisaged to be constructed over River Narmada at this location. The work of construction of new bridge is scheduled to be awarded by January, 2014. The scheduled completion time is 30 months after the award of the work.

- (c) Yes Sir. The action had already been initiated as mentioned above.

Projects under CRF for Odisha

875. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received the project proposals for sanction of nine numbers of projects under Central Road Fund for Odisha vide Works Department letter dated 8th July, 2013; and

- (b) if so, the details of the achievements made as a result thereof?

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

(b) Government of Odisha has subsequently revised the priority list to 7 nos. of project proposals under Central Road Fund (CRF) for the State during 2013-14, which are under consideration in Ministry. However, the sanction of projects under CRF is subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works.

Increased rates of toll tax

876. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of toll tax on National Highways have been increased more than double during the last three years and consequently the common public are facing difficulty in this period of inflation, if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) the basis for increasing rates of toll tax under Government rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) No sir, however user fee rates which were to be revised periodically, based on WPI, as per applicable fee rules prior to 05.12.2008, could not to be revised due to agitation by transporters. The

new fee rules, National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Rules, 2008 were published on 05.12.2008 taking into account WPI since 1997, due to this on some stretches rate of user fee increased to double. However to mitigate the hardship of the road users the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Rules, 2008 was amended to restrict the increase in user fee to 25% in each year for the contracts entered into on or after 12.10.2011.

(b) User fee is being revised annually @ 3% plus 40% of difference of WPI of previous year to current year.

Declaration of Nirmal-Khanpur-Luxettipeta stretch as National Highway

877. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that Nirmal- Khanapur-Luxettipeta (Extension of NH- 222) stretch has been sent by Government of Andhra Pradesh for declaring as National Highway, if so the details thereof;

(b) the estimated cost that is required to complete this; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government on the above request; and by when the above project is likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded the proposal for declaration of new National Highways (NHs). Ministry has already declared 10,000 Kms. of new NHs in the entire country keeping in view of the requirement of connectivity, inter-se priority and availability of funds. This stretch of Nirmal-Khanpur-Luxettipeta does not figure in the list of new declared NHs.

Status of N.H. 17 project

878. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of expansion and upgradation of National Highway 17 project, which was dropped; the details thereof along with the proposal of Government of Goa, if any, in the last one year;