

for transportation of road accident victims on the identified stretch of NH-8 to a Government hospital or an empanelled hospital. Cashless treatment for the first 48 hours or up to Rs. 30,000/- whichever is reached earlier, at CGHS rates/AIIMS rates will be provided in case of treatment at an empanelled Hospital.

Rise in road accidents due to poor maintenance of roads

2895. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the road accidents caused due to poor maintenance of roads are on the rise in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor maintenance of roads is forcing vehicles to move at a slow pace resulting in loss of time and energy;

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is taking any steps to ensure effective maintenance of roads, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) Information with respect to road accidents caused due to poor maintenance of roads is not available with this Ministry. However, as per information collected in the format devised under Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the total number of road accidents in India due to 'defect in road condition' has declined from 7,327 in 2011 to 6,796 in 2012 as against the total number of road accidents 4,97,686 and 4,90,383 in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

(b) The development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. Accordingly, all the NHs are kept in traffic worthy condition from time to time within the available resources based upon the assessment of their conditions depending upon traffic density and *inter-se* priority of works, as such an assessment about loss of time and energy on account of slow movement of vehicles due to poor maintenance of roads has not been carried out.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increasing length of roads

2896. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka seeking approval for increasing the length of roads from 1250 to 2250 kms., if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Centre has taken any steps to examine the proposal; and

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. 29 fresh proposals for declaration of roads/stretch as new National Highways have been received from the State Government of Karnataka. Out of these proposals, one road stretch i.e. Udupi (NH-17) to Thirthalli (NH-13) via Hebbari-Agumbe of Karkala Taluk in Karnataka (87.60 kms), has been declared as new National Highway. Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highway is taken up from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Foundation stone of additional bridge

2897. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Minister (RT and H) laid foundation stone of the additional bridge on "Narmada" river at Zadeshwar on 01 May, 2012;

(b) if so, the details of work that has been done since then;

(c) whether Government is satisfied with the progress of work; and