

(c) whether it is proposed to grant certain exemptions to the developers in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have taken a number of steps for speedy completion of National Highway (NH) projects including streamlining of process of land acquisition and other statutory clearances, securitisation of road sector loans, introduction of revamped dispute resolution mechanism and close coordination with other Ministries etc. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has also de-linked the grant of Environment Clearance from the Forest Clearance for linear projects and treated the strengthening and widening of NH projects differently from the new projects and allowed the construction of the NH in the Non-Forest areas. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also advised all scheduled commercial banks to treat road sector debt as secured within the limits of 90 % of debt due enabling banks to allocate a larger portion of lending to road sector and also to reduce the cost thereon. Concessionaires/developers have also been allowed for harmonious substitution and re-schedulement of Premium quoted by them.

Migration from PPP to EPC model for highway projects

†2711. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is proving ineffective in highway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to implement Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model in highway projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to lack of equity in the market there has been a lukewarm response from the bidders for the projects under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode during 2012-13 and 2013-14. During the year 2013-14, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had awarded 17 projects for a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

total length of 1435.84 kms of which two projects are on PPP mode. 21 projects were bid out by NHAI through PPP mode, but none of the project has received any response.

(c) and (d) Considering the current market conditions, particularly with reference to the highway sector, focus of the Government is on implementation of highways through public funded Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode. Once, the highways sector gathers momentum through execution of the EPC projects and current issues plaguing PPP mode are well-addressed, the focus on PPP mode including Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) (Toll) would be restored in order to effectively take highways sector forward.

Contribution of road and transport sector in economic growth

†2712. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has set a target for road and transport sector for additional contribution in economic growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the special steps proposed to be taken in order to achieve the set target within the specified time period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have taken a number of steps for speedy completion of National Highway (NH) projects including streamlining of process of land acquisition and other statutory clearances, harmonious substitution of Concessionaire, re-schedulement of Premium quoted by concessionaires, securitisation of road sector loans, introduction of revamped dispute resolution mechanism and close coordination with other Ministries etc.

Clearance of projects under different programmes in Karnataka

2713. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government had submitted five separate proposals in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.