

**Construction of cemented roads**

†3474. 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 construction cost and maintenance expenses of cemented roads is less than that of tar roads;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to prioritize the construction of cement roads instead of tar roads in future; 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) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the construction and maintenance of National Highways. These days bitumen is used in construction of roads instead of tar. The initial cost of construction of cement concrete pavement on National Highways is generally more than the bituminous pavement depending upon the availability of base items in different regions of the country. However, the maintenance expenses of the cement concrete pavement are less than the bituminous pavement as it maintains a hard durable surface throughout its design life due to which the routine repairs are not generally required. Apart from routine maintenance, the cement concrete pavement does not require renewal at frequent intervals as compared to bituminous pavement.

(c) and (d) It has been decided in the Ministry that the type of pavement to be adopted for National Highways projects should be determined on the basis of durability and life cycle cost. Considering the issues related to environment, longer service life, fuel consumption, resistance to extreme weather conditions, saving of natural resources and maintenance etc. the concrete pavement could be the default mode of construction on National Highways.

**New National Highways in Vidarbha**

3475. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning the construction of any new National Highways in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.