

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of drafting a new Motor Vehicle Act in place of the existing Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, covering all issues related to motor vehicle and road safety.

Four-laning of Yamuna Nagar-Panchkula Highway

3491. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private concessionaire has pulled out of the four-laning project of the Yamuna Nagar-Panchkula Highway (NH-73);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for inordinate delay in getting all mandatory clearances for the project; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for execution of the project in a time bound manner in order to avoid further escalation of the construction cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) The four-laning project of Yamuna Nagar-Panchkula section of NH-73 (Old) awarded to the private Concessionnaire on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) - Toll has been foreclosed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The Concessionnaire M/s. Yamunanagar Panchkula Highway Private Ltd. had requested to foreclose the project because the clearance for wild life sanctuary from National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) was not given for commencement of work by the Concessionnaire on ground. NHAI has already initiated the process for taking up the four-laning of this project under EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) mode except the stretches passing through wild life sanctuary.

Setting up of National Highways construction company

3492. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a National Highways Construction Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of reference, aims and objectives; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to speed up road construction projects and also ensure that the agencies carry out work swiftly without sitting on funds?