(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) A new company namely National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. has recently been incorporated for fostering regional connectivity exclusively dedicated for implementation of highway projects in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries on a sustainable basis.

(c) 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 the 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.

Construction of roads in border areas

3493. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has approached the Ministry for speeding up the construction of a road network along the northern and north-eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in developing road infrastructure in the border areas;

(c) whether Government has prepared a plan to fast track the road network in these areas to safeguard our security interests; 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) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) and there is no specific programme of this Ministry for development of road infrastructure along the international border of the country. However, in order to fast-track development of NH network in the border areas a company, namely, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has been created.