

Autonomy to NHAI

*117. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has sought greater decision making autonomy on the grounds that its role has changed with the trend towards greater private partnership in highway projects; and

(b) if so, Government's view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) NHAI Board has adequate autonomy for decision making and comprises three Secretaries to the Government of India in addition to the Chairman NHAI. Its Board has all encompassing powers regarding implementation of NH projects. However, policy making functions vest with the Government.

(b) With the changing dynamics of the sector, as and when needed NHAI would be restructured; especially in terms of operational flexibility and institutional capacity to award and manage PPP projects. Towards this, an amendment has been made through the National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2013 wherein the number of both full time and part time members was increased to six.

Stock of coal with thermal power plants

*118. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stock position of coal with thermal power plants remains critical as more than half of the generating stations have less than a week's fuel stock;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal materialization to the power sector has improved in the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As on 23.11.2014, out of 103 coal based power plants monitored by Central Electricity Authority, 26 number of Thermal Power Plants are having coal stock less than 4 days. The list of the same is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the current year (April-October, 2014), the coal receipt was 303.75 Million Tonnes (MT) against the coal receipt of 276.2 MT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of about 10% in supply of coal to the power plants.