

(c) The Agreement would enable cross-border trade of electricity amongst the SAARC Member States on voluntary basis subject to the laws, rules and regulations of the respective Member States. Cross border electricity trade would facilitate transfer of surplus power from one Member State to other Member State(s) in a short term to long term time-frame.

(d) The Agreement includes a provision to enable the Member States to encourage knowledge sharing and joint research related to, *inter-alia*, development and integration of grid of renewable energy sources.

Status of road projects

†2441. CHAUDHARY MUNVVAR SALEEM : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new roads construction work announced during the last five years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of work completed in the approved projects, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the pending projects, State-wise and the reasons for pendency of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Revamping of toll collection system

2442. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to go for a complete revamp of toll collection across the country in view of the repeated allegations of exorbitant toll collection, irregularity in collection of toll and other issues raised by the motorist;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of the proposal under Government's consideration to revamp toll collection and the time-frame fixed for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to do away with allegations of exorbitant toll collection, irregularity in collection of toll and to have seamless movement on National Highways, Government has decided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to adopt Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology based on Electronic Product Code (EPC), Gen-2, ISO 18000-6C Standards for implementing Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system on all toll plazas on National Highways.

(c) ETC will be implemented on Pan India basis by 2015.

Protection for road accident victims

2443. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action taken by Government to improve road safety in the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that lot of people including traffic policemen, school going children and children living in the slums and foot paths become victim to road accidents;

(c) if so, how many such cases have been recorded during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect the children and provide stringent punishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P): (a) The Ministry has taken the following steps to minimize road accidents in the country:

- (i) The Government has formulated a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, establishing road safety information data base, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws etc.
- (ii) The Government has constituted National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety. The Ministry has requested all States/UTs for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees.
- (iii) The Ministry has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on four E's of Road Safety viz. (i) Education (ii) Enforcement (iii) Engineering (roads as well as vehicles) and (iv) Emergency care. Consolidated recommendations have been advised to the states for implementation.
- (iv) Road safety has been made an integral part of road design at the planning stage.