

Pending road projects

3250.SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the road project sanctioned, running behind schedule/under dispute/arbitration, completed and those terminated during the last three years along with the corrective action taken by Government in this regard;
- (b) the targets fixed for road construction for the coming years;
- (c) the projects sanctioned so far, and the steps taken for timely completion of these projects;
- (d) whether several projects failed to attract any bidders; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to attract more private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) During the last three years, 1183 projects sanctioned, 1052 projects completed. 163 projects are running behind schedule, 76 projects are under dispute/arbitration, and 51 projects have been terminated. The targets for construction for the current year is 6500 km. Targets are fixed at the beginning of every year. So far, 101 projects have been sanctioned during the current year. The progress of the projects including above are reviewed from time to time to ensure timely completion.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There is no response from the bidders mainly for BOT projects due to economic downturn resulting in upsetting the traffic projections and consequent revenue generation, non-availability of equity with the Concessionaires and due to other construction related issues during 2012-13 and 2013-14, the response to NH projects under BOT mode was poor, with 26 project bids out through PPP mode not receiving any response. In the current financial year only 3 projects are awarded on BOT. The steps taken for to attract more private investment are: exit for equity investors, premium re-scheduling, securitization of road sector loans, mutual termination/cancellation of awarded road projects and re-bidding, close coordination with other Ministries and revamping of dispute resolution mechanism etc.