

Therefore, two adjoining sections constructed at different time in separate contracts having length of less than 60 kms may have the fee plazas within 60 kms.

(b) User fee is levied and collected as per applicable fee rule and provision of the concession agreement.

(c) As per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 the minimum distance between two toll plazas is 60 km subject to provision in the applicable fee rules, Concession Agreement and factors given at (a) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Decongestion plan for National Highways

735. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any decongestion plan for the National Highways, particularly Highways passing through West Bengal and approaching to North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when such a plan would be in place for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P): (a) and (b) For decongestion of National Highway widening of carriageway, service roads and grade separated structures are provided depending upon the feasibility, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Development of some of the National Highways passing through West Bengal and approaching to North-Eastern States have been taken up under NHDP to ease the congestion on National Highways.

Bharat New Vehicle Safety Assessment Programme

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

(a) whether Government proposes to enforce Bharat New Vehicle Safety Assessment Programme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for mandatory star rating for all new cars as well as to come out with norms that manufacturers would have to meet before the cars are sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) As per the draft notification for amendment of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 (CMVRs), under the Bharat New Vehicle Safety Assessment Programme, compliance as per Crash standards, Automotive Industry Standard 098 and Automotive Industry Standard 099 shall be mandatory for the new vehicles from 1st October, 2017, and in case of existing vehicles same will apply from 1st October, 2018.

(c) A Technical Committee has been formed under the Ministry of Power for formulating the norms for star labeling of Passenger Cars.

Investments for construction of highways

738. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to build 30 km of highway a day over the next four to five years;

(b) if so, the quantum of investment required and the source of mobilization of funds required for achieving this big target;

(c) whether Government has identified Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) fund accumulations as a viable source for borrowing of funds for National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Investment required will be of the order of ₹ 70,000 crore - ₹ 80,000 crore/year which is expected to be met through cess fund, toll ploughback, budgetary support, market borrowings such as Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bond, Tax Free Bond and private sector participation. It is pre-mature to indicate utilization of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as a viable source.