

(b) whether the committee also directed the States to strengthen law enforcement against drunken driving, over speeding and other offences; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government, in consultation with State Governments, to implements these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) The Committee appointed by the Supreme Court on road safety submits its report to the Supreme Court which issues necessary orders from time to time. However, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been issuing advisories to all the States/UTs from time to time requesting them not to issue licences for liquor shops situated along national highways and to revoke all the licenses already issued to such vendors.

Increase in fuel cess for road construction

1231. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has mooted a proposal to hike fuel cess to fund road construction;

(b) whether Government has already imposed ₹ 2 as cess on the petrol and diesel for construction of highways;

(c) whether in addition to the cess on the petrol and diesel, consumers are also paying huge amount of toll taxes;

(d) if so, whether this move of Government would further burden the consumers; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Finance has recently increased the basic excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹ 2.00 per litre and additional revenue gain on this account will be transferred to Central Road Fund (CRF) and form part of the shareable pool.

(c) As per the extant policy, user fee is levied from road users, on the stretches of National Highways where substantial improvement has been carried out.

(d) and (e) National Highways (NHs) are the main arteries for movement of goods and passengers. The development of NHs requires huge investment. To supplement

the resources cess/toll is being levied. With the improvement of roads, road users will save substantially in terms of vehicle operating cost and time. As such, question of burden does not arise.

Revival of highway projects

1232. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several highway projects have not made any progress and are stuck midway and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Central Government has taken policy decision to revive highway projects that have become unviable and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed scheme would be applicable for both Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) projects and those on Government funding or Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the intention behind this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Delay in land acquisition and Statutory Clearances, local law and order issues, shortage of construction material etc. are main factors contributing to delay in implementation of National Highway (NH) projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Most of these are addressed with the support of the respective State Governments and attempts taken by the Government to streamline the process for such statutory clearances. Government is also considering one time fund infusion to revive and physically complete some of these languishing projects being implemented on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode of delivery only. This proposal of moderate fund infusion would help physical completion of languishing NH projects expeditiously bringing relief thereby, to the citizens/highway users in the area as it is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, being the custodian of public interest, to ensure completion of on-going NH projects as per schedule thereby causing minimum inconvenience to the highway users.

Roads financed from CRF

†1233. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.