

- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.) : (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for Development and Maintenance of National Highways (NHs). Development and Maintenance of NHs for improving connectivity of different areas, including border States of country, is a continuous process and are taken up from time to time depending upon requirement, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds.

Regulation of taxi operators

383. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had convened a meeting of transport departments of various States and all other concerned to take stock of the issues relating to regulation of taxi operators and also the new age operators who call themselves service provider;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the deliberations made in the said meeting;

(c) whether Government is considering to have uniform regulations across the country concerning the taxi operators and also the said new age operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (d) The taxi hailing services or the on-demand transport aggregating services in question are covered under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Under Section 93, the State Governments have the power to regulate such service providers. The Ministry has finalised a draft advisory for the State Governments in consultation with stakeholders.

Removals of toll plazas

†384. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is considering on removing the toll plazas from National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it would be applicable to all vehicles or removal of toll tax is being considered for small and private vehicles only;

(d) whether it is also a fact that violent incidents have happened on toll plazas due to the toll; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Some instances of violence were reported at toll plazas and immediate action was taken to resolve the issues.

Widening of NH-8D and 8E

385. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of devotees from across the country visit holy places of Somnath and Dwarka located on National Highway No.-8E; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's plan for widening of NH-8E and NH-8D to six lane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The details for widening of NH-8E and NH-8D are given below:

- (i) Bhavnagar – Veraval section of NH-8E in a length of 256 km is envisaged for four-laning. Feasibility study has been completed. The appraisal process is currently underway.
- (ii) Gadu to Dwarka section of NH-8E is envisaged, for two laning from Gadu to Porbandar (93 kms) and for four laning from Porbandar to Dwarka (117 kms). Feasibility study has been completed. The project requires clearance of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)/environmental clearance, which are in progress.
- (iii) 4- laning of Jetpur Somnath section of NH-8D in a length of 127.6 kms is under implementation. Out of this, 98.52 km is complete. The project also includes Junagarh bypass (20 kms) for which the land acquisition has been delayed on account of litigations.