

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Contract for repair of Rampur-Kathgodam section of National Highway No. 87 via Haldwani is awarded to M/s. Shivalik Infraventure Pvt. Ltd and the Contract agreement was signed on 04.03.2014.

(c) to (e) The work of 4- laning and strengthening of this National Highway was earlier awarded on BOT(Toll) basis in February, 2012. The Concessionaire did not start the work and therefore the agreement was terminated in April, 2014 by the National Highways Authority of India(NHAI). Performance security of the Concessionaire has been encashed by the NHAI. Now process for re-award of the widening work is in progress. Repair work is being done continuously by the Contractor M/s. Shivalik Infraventure Pvt. Ltd. However, pot holes/patches are being developed under heavy traffic and bad weather condition. As such no penalty on the maintenance contractor is appropriate.

Encouragement to e-rickshaws

388. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourages e-rickshaw across the country particularly in cities like Vijayawada and Hyderabad as people's mode of transport with central subsidy;

(b) whether Government would undertake a programme to bring these rickshaws under motor transport department since there is no standardization in e-rickshaws;

(c) whether Government intends to check the import of substandard e-rickshaw components from China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Central Government *vide* notified G.S.R. 709(E) dated 08.10.2014, S.O. 2590(E) dated 08.10.2014 and G.S.R. 27(E) dated 13.01.2015 has amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 (CMVRs) to include e-Rickshaws and its specifications under the ambit of CMVRs to encourage e-Rickshaw across the Country. In order to facilitate plying of e-Rickshaw and e-Cart, the Central Government also amended sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 which have given relaxation to e-Rickshaw and e-Cart drivers. In addition, the definition of e-Rickshaw and e-Cart has also been included under the said Act.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the safety standards of e-Rickshaw, Central Government has notified S.O. 2590(E) dated 8th October, 2014 for strict compliance.

Revision of speed limits on NHS

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to review and revise speed limits on National Highways considering the fact that over speeding is the main cause of accidents which results in loss of life and property;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) This Ministry had constituted a committee to review speed limit of Motor Vehicles. Based on the report of this Committee chaired by Mr. Bahadur, this Ministry has notified S.O. No. 1997(E) dated 5th August, 2014 for fixing the maximum speed in kilometres per hour in respect of the different class of motor vehicles.

Bank loan for women Self-Help Groups

390. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has extended provisions of bank loans for women Self-Help Groups in some additional districts of various States in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard along with the criteria for selecting districts for the said purpose;
- (c) whether an expert group constituted under the former Deputy Governor of RBI has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by them and the action so far taken on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Self Help Group - Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) is being implemented by banks all over the country. For