

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Conscious steps have been taken by the Government to encourage private developers to develop national highways in the country. As a result, participation of the private sector in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects has started showing signs of recovery. During the financial year 2014-15 and the current year, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has already awarded 9 highway projects on PPP Mode. This revival trend is expected to continue and gain momentum with time.

(b) Award of national highway projects completed on Engineering, Procurement Construction (EPC) mode for Operation-Maintenance-Transfer (OMT) is a continuous process and are awarded as per feasibility and requirement *per-se*. Some other innovative models are also being worked out.

**Agency for road safety and traffic management**

2351. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up a dedicated body for ensuring road safety and traffic management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to incorporate global best practices in road safety and management and also for inclusion of a chapter on road safety in school curriculum in order to inculcate the importance of the subject at the primary school level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) The Ministry has drafted a new Road Transport and Safety Bill incorporating the global best practices in the sector. The Bill provides for the creation of a National Road Safety & Traffic Management Authority (NRSTMA) to look after all issues related to vehicle regulation and road safety. It envisages *inter alia* to utilize technological intervention and information technology based systems to ensure efficient and safe transport systems in the country.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sent a draft curriculum to National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for its inclusion in the text books of Class VI to Class XII. This Ministry has also issued advisories to State Governments/UT to consider introduction of road safety education in the school curriculum.