

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether such highways, which are to be converted, are being identified; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated for this conversion project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highways is taken up from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity and *inter-se* priority. For the purpose of conversion of State Highways into National Highways, no fund is required to be allocated.

Electric bus and car services in hilly States

742. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is exploring the possibility of introducing electric bus and car services in the hilly States and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has consulted the hilly States in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) There is no particular proposal in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, for exploring the possibility of introducing electric bus and car services in the hilly States. However, Ministry has notified standards for the type approval of hybrid electric vehicles and type approval procedure for electric and hybrid electric vehicles introduced in market for pilot/demonstration projects intended for Government Scheme *vide* S.O.1013(E) dated 15th April, 2015.

Awarding of road projects

743. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new model like hybrid model is being considered for awarding road projects to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of road projects which are under consideration for award to private players under various models;

(d) how many kms. of road projects were completed during the last three years as against the target, year-wise; and

(e) if the target has not been achieved, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) A new mode of delivery under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, namely Hybrid Annuity Model, is being considered for awarding road projects for implementation under which 40% of project cost is being provided by the Government to the concessionaire during the construction period in five equal installments. Remaining 60% is to be arranged in form of debt and equity to be compensated over 15 years as bi-annual annuities.

(c) The details of road projects which are under consideration for award under various modes of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) are as follows:

| Modes | No. of projects | Length (in KM) | Total project cost (₹ in crores) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) | 16 | 2033.850 | 25,962.86 |
| Hybrid Annuity Model | 19 | 701.210 | 15,241.79 |
| TOTAL | 35 | 2735.060 | 41,204.65 |

(d) Targets for construction of highways under the various Schemes of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and achievement thereof for the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Target for construction (in KM) | Length constructed (in KM) |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2012-13 | 6187 | 5732 |
| 2013-14 | 6330 | 4260 |
| 2014-15 | 6330 | 4410 |

(e) Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, grant of statutory clearances, non-availability of aggregates/soil, ban on mining in some States, public agitation, arbitration/contractual disputes etc. have caused delay in construction of highways across the country. Government has taken a number of steps to minimise such delays in future.