

and from Aligarh to Kanpur, it is being maintained in motorable condition through maintenance work.

(b) Out of total length of 126.30 Kms. of NH-91 between Ghaziabad to Aligarh, 4-laning in 121 Kms. has been completed.

(c) For 4-laning of Aligarh to Kanpur section of this National Highway, preparation of detailed project report (DPR) is in progress.

(d) The remaining work of 4-laning of 5.30 Kms. length between Ghaziabad and Aligarh is likely to be completed by April, 2016 after resolving the bottlenecks on account of availability of hindrance free land. As regards completion of 4-laning of Aligarh to Kanpur section, it is premature to indicate the likely date of completion.

Changes in provisions for issuing of driving licences

917. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the proposed new Motor Vehicles Act, Government proposes to make the driving licence procedure more transparent and stringent in order to curb fake licences;

(b) whether it is also proposed to implement strict guidelines to test and train the driving licence applicants; and

(c) what steps are being taken in the new Act to safeguard the rights of pedestrians, drivers, physically challenged persons and to curb the incidents of road rage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is working on a proposal to replace the "Motor Vehicles Act, 1988" with a new Act namely "The Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2015" which *inter alia* facilitate technological intervention and information technology based systems to ensure efficient and safe transport systems in the country. The Bill proposes to have a Unified Driving Licencing System which envisages the simplified application and issuance procedures for Driver Licencing system, adopting technology for driving testing facilities. Unified biometric system is proposed to be adopted to avoid duplication of licence.

(c) The Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2015 *inter-alia* proposes to include

regulation for pedestrians, non-motorised transport and motor vehicles. It includes sensitising and educating drivers and other road users. It also provides special consideration to vulnerable road users such as women, children, senior citizens and differently-abled persons. Combination of penalties and fines to enforce traffic rules, strict enforcement for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, rash driving, electronic detection and centralized offences information to identify repeat offenders have also been proposed.

Pace of construction of roads

†918. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads, in kilometers, being constructed at present as Government had promised to construct 30 Km. roads daily;

(b) the percentage escalation in the cost of these projects due to delay in their construction;

(c) whether Government is considering any other scheme to complete the construction of roads at the earliest; and

(d) whether Government is considering imposing fines on road construction companies responsible for delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) The average highways construction is 13.51 Km. per day till October, 2015.

(b) In item rate contracts, there is a provision for payment of escalation due to delay if it is not attributable to contractor and percentage escalation in the cost varies from project to project.

(c) No, Sir. Regular Meetings of Infrastructure Committee headed by Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways are being taken for removing the obstruction like land acquisition, utility shifting, non-availability of soil/aggregate, environment/forest/wildlife clearances, ROB and RUB issues with Railways, etc. for earliest construction of roads.

(d) Suitable action is taken as per the contractual provisions against the contractor responsible for delay.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.