

As per National Urban Transport Policy, 2006 Central Government would encourage investment in public transport systems to ensure that such systems are well integrated and offer a seamless system to users. Central Government's financial support would be contingent on appropriate authorities/entities being set up to ensure that a coordinated and integrated public transport system become available. The threshold traffic volume for converting National Highways from 2 to 4 lane has been brought down to 10,000 Passenger Car Unit (PCU) from 15,000 (PCU) per day, with a view to decongest the National Highways.

Kelkar Committee's proposal for settlement of disputes in road sector

102. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee tasked with finding solutions to the long pending disputes in public-private partnerships in road sector has called for an independent third-party resolution mechanism in a time-bound manner;

(b) whether the proposed mechanism would also have adjudicatory functions and punitive powers; and

(c) if so, the salient provisions contained in the said Committee's report that are considered more result-oriented than the present mechanism for a one-time amicable settlement involving Independent Settlement Advisory Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of Dr. Kelkar Committee, this Ministry sent a proposal to Ministry of Finance for setting up a dedicated Dispute Resolution Authority for Highway projects with an objective to expedite dispute resolution in time bound manner. Ministry of Finance has conveyed that the need for setting up a parallel disputes resolution authority for highway projects may not be necessary as pursuant to the Budget Announcement 2016-17, Ministry of Finance proposes to introduce the Public Utility (Resolution of Disputes) Bill which will cover contracts entered into by Public Authority for infrastructure projects, including PPP and construction projects.

Withdrawal of toll collection

103. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed to withdraw collection of tolls in various toll collection centres across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and NH-wise;