

spots (accident prone spots) on national highways. Around 700 such black spots have been identified for improvement.

- (viii) The threshold for four laning of national highway has been reduced from 15,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) to 10,000 PCUs. About 52,000 Km. of stretches of State Highways has been identified for conversion to national highways.
- (ix) Setting up of model driving training institutes in States and refresher training to drivers of Heavy Motor Vehicle in the unorganized sector.
- (x) Advocacy/Publicity campaign on road safety through the electronic and print media.
- (xi) Tightening of safety standards for vehicles like Seat Belts, Power-steering, Anti-lock braking system etc.
- (xii) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments under the National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme for development on National Highways. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.
- (xiii) Launch of pilot projects for providing cashless treatment of road accident victims on Gurgaon–Jaipur, Vadodara–Mumbai stretch of National Highways No. 8 and Ranchi–Rargaon–Mahulia stretch of National Highway No. 33.

Construction of foot over bridges and underpasses on NHs

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

(a) whether executing agencies of road projects explored the possibilities of constructing foot over bridges/pedestrian underpasses on National Highways to prevent accidents, as asked by the Government on 11th April, 2016;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by executing agencies in construction of foot over bridges/pedestrian underpasses; and

(c) the details of action taken against those project executing agencies which did not adhere to the above order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI. RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) As per the guidelines issued by Ministry on 11.04.2016, Foot over Bridges (FOBs)/pedestrian underpasses (PUPs) are being proposed/being included in projects at proposal stage wherever those are required and feasible. In Highway development projects on Engineering

Procurement Construction (EPC) and Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) modes road safety audits are mandatory which can recommend FOBs/ PUPs depending on the requirements. During the last two years and the current year 59 FOBs/PUPs have been completed. Further 25 FOBs/PUPs are in progress and 236 FOBs/PUPs are in proposal/DPR stage.

Proposals for NHs in Puducherry

95. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending proposals which were received from Puducherry Government for taking them up as National Highways (NHs);

(b) whether it is a fact that not even a single NH either 2 lane or 4 lane or 6/8 lane has been constructed during the last two years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking up any project in Puducherry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Declaration of State roads as National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process and expansion of NH network is taken up from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds. Government of Puducherry had forwarded eight number of proposals for declaration of State roads as new NHs in recent years. The Ministry has included the State road connecting Chennai-Puducherry out of these proposals under proposed “Bharatmala Pariyojna” meant for providing road connectivity to coastal/border areas, backward areas, religious places, tourist places, construction/rehabilitation/widening of about 1,500 major bridges and 208 Railway Over Bridges (ROBs)/Railway Under Bridges (RUBs) on NHs and improvement of newly declared NHs providing connectivity to District Head Quarters.

(b) and (c) The existing NH in the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry is of 2 lane standards. Improvement works amounting to ₹ 64.74 crore have been sanctioned during 2014-15 and 2015-16. The proposed project of 4-laning of 194 km. of Viluppuram–Puducherry–Nagapattinam Section of NH 45A is included under NHDP Phase-IV, in which a section of NH about 52 km. falls within the UT of Puducherry.

Setting up of logistics parks

96. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to reduce transportation cost and minimize pollution by setting up 15 logistics parks in cities with high freight movement; and