

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to increase the share of National Highways; and

(c) if not, the share of National Highways in the entire road network of the country, at present, and the share in some big countries in the world *vis-a-vis* India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKHL. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The existing National Highways (NHs) comprise of about 1.9% of total road network in the country. The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals for declaration of various State roads from various States/UTs as NHs. The Ministry considers declaration of State Roads as new NHs from time to time keeping in view the requirement of connectivity, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Incentives for returning old vehicles

†2178. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's policy to provide incentives for returning old vehicles, is pending for decision;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, by when it would be implemented; and

(d) the method of fixing the quantum of incentives for different vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKHL. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) The concept note on 'Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme' to enable the replacement of Old Heavy and Medium Commercial Vehicles as they contribute the maximum of vehicular pollution was placed on Ministry's official website for information and comments from concerned Ministries and Departments and other stakeholders. The matter is being placed before the Committee of Secretaries for their recommendations.

Scheme for upkeep of road bridges

2179. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any scheme for proper and timely upkeep of road bridges on National Highways across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its main features; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) by when the scheme is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKHL. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government has recently launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) and made it operational for carrying out the inventory and condition survey of all the bridges existing on the National Highways, for deciding repair, rehabilitation or reconstruction of particular bridge.

Illegal toll collection

2180. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of illegal/fraudulent toll tax collection;
- (b) if so, the whether Government plans to implement changes in the rules and procedures;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKHL. MANDAVIYA): (a) The collection of user fee for the use of a section of National Highway is done as per the provisions in applicable Fee Rules and the Concession/Contract Agreement. Government has notified the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Rules, 2008 on 5.12.2008, as amended from time to time for the projects taken up on or after 05.12.2008. For the stretches completed before 5th December, 2008 the fee collection is as per the National Highways (collection of Fees by any person for the use of Section of National Highways/Permanent Bridge/Temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules, 1997; and the National Highways (Rate of fee) Rules, 1997 for those completed after the date of notification of these Rules. Further, any illegal/fraudulent fee collection complaint received is attended by the executing agency for needful action as per the provision of contract/concession agreement/NH fee rules.

(b) to (d) For transparency in fee collection and seamless movement at Fee Plazas, procedural changes in the form of a cashless payment mechanism (FASTag) *i.e.* Electronic Fee Collection (EFC) system has been rolled out w.e.f. 25.04.2016. It is operational on over 347 fee plazas on National Highways across the country.