

**Opposition to automation of vehicle fitness centres and
hike in other charges**

†415. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are opposing the automation of vehicle fitness centres and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the State Governments are also opposing the increase in charges of driving licences, registration certificate, fitness certificate, etc. and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of efforts being made by Government to reduce charges and to resolve other conflicts considering the opposition of State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published notification G.S.R. 1183 (E) dated 29.12.2016 regarding Revision of fees. After the publication of the notification, a number of representations from different States have come requesting this Ministry to clarify about the implementation of the notification regard to delay fees. Clarification has been forwarded to all the States/UTs on 2.2.2017.

Cashless toll plazas at National Highways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that toll plazas at National Highways could not be made cashless despite all the claims;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of toll plazas that have been made cashless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has rolled out a cashless payment mechanism (FASTag) by implementation of Electronic Fee Collection System on pan India basis *w.e.f.* 25.04.2016. The initiative provides seamless travel (near non-stop movement of vehicles) through the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fee plazas and convenience of cashless payment of user fee. It is operational on single lane in both directions at 348 fee plazas on National Highways across the country. Further, Government has notified the use of pre-paid payment instruments *vide* Notification G.S.R 1114 (E) dated 02.12.2016 for collection of user fees from road users. This is to permit road users to opt for available cashless modes of payment. Government has also facilitated the Concessionaire/Contractor to use POS (Point of Sale) machines for collection of user fees through credit and debit card for efficient operation. As on 31.01.2017, POS has been set up at 365 fee plazas on National Highways by NHAI.

Steps to reduce road accidents

417. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to reduce the number of road accidents by half, by 2019;
- (b) if so, whether Government has decided to reach out to the corporate sector to achieve this target;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) United Nations had promulgated the UN Decade of Action targeting to reduce road accidents by 50% by the year 2020. All member countries of the UN including India are committed to this Mission, for which this Ministry is making efforts to enhance road safety on our highways, in collaboration with the stakeholders. A draft action plan has been formulated and circulated to all States for implementation. Besides this the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken a number of steps to prevent road accidents as per details mentioned under:

- (i) The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy. This Policy outlines various policy measures such as promoting awareness, encouraging safer road infrastructure including application of intelligent transport, enforcement of safety laws trauma care etc.
- (ii) The Government has constituted the National Road Safety Council as the apex body to take policy decisions in matters of road safety.
- (iii) The Ministry has requested all States/UTs for setting up of State Road Safety Council and District Road Safety Committees, and to hold their meetings regularly.