

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will come forward to make suitable amendments/ changes to the relevant Acts/Rules to discontinue toll collection from roads, which investment has already recovered;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The collection of user fee for the use of a section of National Highway (NH) is as per the applicable NH Fee Rules and provisions of the Concession/ Contract Agreement. However, in case of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, after completion of the concession period, the user fee is to be collected by Central Government executing agency at reduced rates of 40%. In case of a public funded project, the user fee rates are to be reduced to 40% after recovery of capital cost of the project.

(c) to (e) At present, after the completion of the concession period/recovery of capital cost, the user fee rates are to be reduced to 40%.

Construction of Patna-Buxar NH

†573. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards construction of Patna-Buxar National Highway in the State of Bihar as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been inordinate delay in construction of this extremely busy highway;

(c) the current status of the bridge under construction over Ganga river in Buxar as part of construction of this highway; and

(d) whether it is a fact that due to certain changes in the layout of the bridge, the agency has not started construction work on the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The work for Patna-Buxar National Highway has been awarded in three packages *i.e.* Patna to Koilwar, Koilwar to Bhojpur and Bhojpur to Buxar stretches. The construction on Patna-Buxar

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Highway has been commenced except in Patna to Koilwar stretch due to delay in availability of encumbrance free land.

(c) and (d) The work on Bhojpur to Buxar stretch of Patna-Buxar National Highway comprising of bridge over Ganga river has been started in April, 2018. The commencement of work on Bhojpur to Buxar stretch was delayed due to non-availability of encumbrance free land.

Status of National Highways in the country

†574. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the National Highways in different States in kilometers along with the number of lanes in them;

(b) whether Government proposes to widen all the National Highways to four lanes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Total length of National Highways (NHs) at present is about 1,29,709 km. State/Union Territory (UT)-wise length of NHs and their lane-wise distribution is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The minimum desirable standards for NHs is of 2 lane configurations. The works on NHs, including those for development of NHs to minimum 2 lane NH standards, are, accordingly, taken up depending upon *inter-se* priority, traffic density and availability of funds.

The Ministry has taken up development of NHs/roads under various phases of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East Region (SARDP-NE) including Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads, Special Programme for Development of Roads in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Externally Aided Projects (EAP), National Highways (Original) [NH (O)] scheme, etc. Various phases of NHDP envisaged development of NHs to 4/6 lane and 2 lane NH standards, development of expressways, etc. Development of most of the roads/ NHs under other schemes envisages their upgradation to 2 lane NH standards.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.