

provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013.

(b) to (d) No Sir.

### **Security on National Highways**

1056. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that highways in the country are not being maintained, resulting in frequent accidents on highways;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been undertaken on the condition of the highways;
- (d) whether Government has received any complaints about the poor maintenance of the highways by any State Government, if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government on such complaints;
- (e) whether the Supreme Court of India has directed Government to rectify the defects and increase the Highway Security; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government and guidelines issued to reduce the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Steps have been taken to improve the road safety by way of timely maintenance and repair of National Highways on Public Private Partnership/Engineering Procurement and Construction/Operation and Maintenance basis through the concessionaires/contractors in order to prevent the accidents.

(c) and (d) Condition of the highways is checked and maintained regularly by the field officers and regional officers and Branch Officers of the Ministry/National Highways Authority of India/National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation. On completed sections, repair and maintenance is carried out by Operation and Maintenance contractors/BOT concessionaires as part of their obligations in the contract. Stretches entrusted to State PWD/NHAI/NHIDCL but where work is yet to start are maintained either directly by NHAI/NHIDCL or through State PWD. Where concessionaire fails to repair roads as per concession agreement, State PWD/NHAI/NHIDCL undertakes repairing work at risk and cost of the concessionaire.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, the Supreme Court *vide* their order dated 30.11.2017 has directed Ministry to take necessary steps to rectify the defects and improve highway security. Ministry is taking the following steps/issued guidelines to reduce the accidents:

- Identified accident black spots on National Highways are being rectified on priority through effective remedial measures.
- Safety audits of Highway Projects are carried out through independent road safety consultants during design, construction and operation stages and any deficiencies thereof are rectified in a continuous process through the concerned concessionaire/contractor.
- Way side amenity centres are being developed at suitable locations on the National Highways to facilitate the road users.
- Ministry has issued guidelines and instructions to the field officers to construct foot over bridges at accident prone locations on National Highways.
- Ministry has also issued instructions to the field officers to assess the safety at all junctions and take necessary safety measures

#### **MoU for improvement of road transportation**

1057. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the United Kingdom (UK) have entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the improvement of road transportation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a delegation from UK visited the country to assess the road situation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir. An MoU has been signed between Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Transport for London (TFL), a statutory body established under the Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK) to improve Public Transport in India.

(b) MoU would help mainly in sharing of information and areas of cooperation