

to in sub-section (3) of section 9 shall be conducted by the licensing authority or such other person as may be authorised in this behalf by the State Government. Implementation of provisions of MV Act and CMVRs come under purview of State Governments concerned.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017, passed by Lok Sabha and presently in Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing *inter-alia* proposes many clauses which will promote simplification and citizen facilitation. Further, the Ministry has introduced online based citizen centric application VAHAN 4.0 and SARATHI 4.0 to ease out the process of obtaining driving licences such as online application, payment of fees or booking an appointment at the RTO for a new Driving Licence etc.

Achievement of target for construction of roads

1059. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the target for road works was short by 45 per cent;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that as against the target of construction of 15,000 km. and 25,000 km. for award, the road constructed was 8,144 km and works awarded was for 16,031 km. only during the year 2016-17; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) Ministry set an ambitious target of 15000 km for construction of National Highways with achievement of 8231 km which is short by about 45% during the financial year 2016-17. Ministry also set an ambitious target of 25000 km for awarding of projects with a achievement of 15948 km which is short by 36% during the financial year 2016-17. Most of the NHs projects and achievement in physical targets are getting delayed due to the problem of land acquisition, utility shifting, non-availability of Soil/Aggregates, Poor performance of contractors, Environment/ Forest/Wildlife Clearance, ROBs & RUBs issue with Railways, Public agitation for additional facilities, Arbitration/contractual disputes with contractors etc, which sometime leads to termination of projects.

Chennai-Tada National Highway Project

1060. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chennai - Tada National Highway Project has been languishing for many years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has explored any alternative way/method to complete this project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKHL. MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had awarded six-lanning of Chennai -Tada Section of NH-5 to M/s L&T Chennai Tada Tollway Ltd. under DBFOT mode on 03.06.2008. The work was commenced on 03.04.2009 with 30 months completion period. After completion of 55.65% work, the Concessionaire was not willing to complete the remaining work and issued termination notice to NHAI. As NHAI did not accept the termination notice, M/s L&T Chennai Tada Tollway Ltd. has approached Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for handing over the project to NHAI. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi *vide* order dated 03.05.2016 directed NHAI to take over the project from M/s L&T Chennai Tada Tollway Ltd. and to remit the toll collection amount into Escrow account.

(c) to (e) Consequent upon taking over of the project, NHAI has taken necessary steps to complete the balance 6 lanning of Chennai-Tada section of NH-5 under EPC mode. The contract for the stretch from km 21/400-54/400 has already been awarded. Further consultant has been engaged for preparation of DPR for construction of elevated corridor in balance stretch from km 11/000 to Km 21/400 (Madhavaram to Nallur) of NH-5.

Construction of new National Highways

1061. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any new initiatives for the development of new Express Highways and elevated roads for easing the traffic in major cities and strategically important cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such projects initiated during the last three years along with funding pattern;