

India (NHAI) has taken up the proposal for construction of 2 nos. VUP, 2 nos. LVUP and 2 nos. flyovers (one at Golagamudi Junction) along with service road on Nellore Bypass of NH-16. The estimate for the said structures has been prepared.

Rules on fake news

*258. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has issued/notified any rules to combat fake news;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) reasons as to why the rules were turned down by the Prime Minister's Office; and
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce legislation/rules to combat fake news, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) The Press Council of India (PCI) has framed "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" for adherence by the media of publishing news which is accurate and fair. The PCI also has an institutional mechanism for redressing any complaints received by it, in accordance with the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, and enables it to warn, admonish or censure a newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist, etc.

With regard to electronic media, the Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Act, 1995 and the Rules made thereunder *inter alia* provide that no programme shall be carried out which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggesting innuendoes and half truths. Monitoring is done through a system of self-regulation by the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) and the National Broadcasting Association (NBA) and the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) of the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF). The NBA has also formulated a Code of Ethics in broadcasting standards. The NBSA had issued an advisory dated 12.05.2016 to its members that manufacturing, drawing, tailoring and tutoring or creating any kind of false or fake news or an attempt to do so will be considered as a serious misconduct on the part of the broadcaster.

The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) of the Ministry monitors content of private TV channels with reference to violation of programme codes. An Inter-

Ministerial Committee (IMC) in the Government looks at specific complaints regarding violation of the Programme Codes by private TV channels and recommends appropriate action in cases of violation of the programme codes. Furthermore, there is provision under Information Technology Act, 2000, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, for removal of objectionable online content for regulation of content on social media. Also the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under Section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way. On case to case, basis, social media platform are approached for removal of specific objectionable content coming to the notice of Government.

Monitoring of accidents on NHs

*259. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give directions to the toll management companies to monitor accidents on National Highways (NHs) so that the said companies could provide ambulance and first-aid services, at the earliest to the victims of accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of deaths that took place in road accidents during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken/likely to be taken by Government to reduce road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per the provisions in the Concession Agreement BOT/OMT, the Concessionaire is required to provide one ambulance, one crane/one patrolling vehicle at each fee plaza. There is also one first aid room at every toll plaza. The concessionaire/O&M agencies are monitoring the accidents and providing ambulance and first aid to the victims of accidents within their respective National Highway section. Similarly, all O&M contractors are providing the above facilities on their projects under incident management.

(c) The State-wise details of deaths that took place in road accidents during the last three calendar years *i.e.* from 2015 to 2017 are given in Statement (*See* below).