(e)   whether Government has conducted or is aware of any study conducted to evaluate benefits of Aadhaar linking in timelines of payments, increasing enrolment, removing corruption and identifying fakes and duplicates and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The use of Aadhaar linking for enrollment in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) has been mandated to bring in transparency and efficiency and to enable the workers to get their entitlements in a convenient and seamless manner in pursuance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

(b)   As of now, against the 11.69 crore active MGNREGA workers, the Aadhaar number of 10.37 crore (89%) active workers have been seeded into MGNREGA programme database (NREGASoft). Use of Aadhaar under MGNREGA has brought transparency in the system and minimized leakages of fund.

(c) and (d) As informed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), it has not created any general option to exit from the Aadhaar scheme. Pursuant to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 494 of 2012, dated 26th September, 2018, such an exit option has only been mandated for children who have been enrolled with consent of their parents provided that they do not intend to avail the benefits of the scheme. No general option to exit for Aadhaar was laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as a binding direction and consequently no such option has been created.

(c)   No such study to evaluate benefits of Aadhaar linking in respect of MGNREGA, has been got conducted by the Ministry.

Geo-tagging of rural development works

*263. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has started using geo-tagging as an audit technique for rural development works, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the details of the collaboration in this regard;

(c)   the details of schemes where geo-tagging is being used;

(d)   whether the local bodies have a role to play in this audit, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e)   the benefits of geo-tagging as compared to other auditing techniques; and

(f)   the details of the funds allocated and utilised for this purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Rural Development and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space for geo-tagging the assets in each Gram Panchayat under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The MoU addresses specific components of geo-tagging of assets and creation of data base for online recording and monitoring. The information related to geo-tagged assets is available in public domain on Bhuvan Portal of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad. To further strengthen transparency and accountability, the Ministry has developed a Citizen Centric Mobile Application (JANMANREGA) to view and provide feedback on the geo-tagged assets.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), the construction of the house is monitored by capturing geo-tagged, date and time stamped photographs of pre-determined stages of construction of the house. The physical progress of stage-wise construction of houses on ground is verified and monitored using mobile based application -"AwaasApp" on AwaasSoft platform.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Ministry is using the services of the NRSC, Hyderabad and Centre for Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD-PR) in monitoring construction of roads by using satellite imageries. As a requirement for this project, the geo-tagging of the PMGSY roads is carried out using geo-pmgsy mobile application. The project is being implemented by NRSC and CGARD.

(e)   The benefits of geo-tagging as compared to other auditing techniques are given below:·

- Geo-tagging helps in greater transparency and higher visibility to the programme.

- Facilitated coordination for joint use of created assets under convergence among multiple departments.

•   Prevents double counting of assets.

(f)   The Ministry has released ₹ 3.35 crore to NRSC, Hyderabad for strengthening infrastructure for geo-tagging under MGNREGA.

Under PMGSY, an amount of ₹ 22.09 crore has been sanctioned for the project and an amount of ₹ 6.62 crore has been released, so far, by the Ministry.

Exemption from road permits for electric vehicles

*264. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that Government proposes to exempt road permits for Electric Vehicles (EVs) and also for vehicles that run on alternative fuels, such as CNG and Ethanol;

(b)   whether the domestic and international Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are waiting for a policy roadmap with regard to electric vehicles so that they can plan investments in the electric vehicle sector; and

(c)   if so, details of the policy and the time-frame for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government, *vide* S.O. 5333(E) dated 18th October, 2018 has granted exemption to the Battery Operated Transport Vehicles and Transport Vehicles running on Ethanol and Methanol fuels from requirement of permit.

(b) and (c) In order to promote the electric vehicle sector, the Government has notified for retro-fitment of hybrid electric system or electric kit to vehicles and has specified the type approval procedure of electric hybrid vehicles. The Government has notified that the registration mark for Battery Operated Vehicles to be on a green background plate. The Ministry has notified certain specifications for the grant of licence to age group of 16-18 years to drive gearless E-scooters/Bikes upto 4.0 KW.

Further, for the promotion of electric mobility in the country, the Government had launched Phase-I of the FAME India Scheme [Faster Adoption of Electric (& Hybrid) Vehicles in India] with effect from 1st April 2015, which was initially for a period of two years and has subsequently been extended till 31st March, 2019. All electric and hybrid vehicles, including public transport, registered under the scheme are being incentivised under the demand creation focus area of this scheme. The Phase-1 of