

(c) and (d) The stretch from Jalandhar to Kapurthala of NH-703A is already four-laned. The estimate amounting to ₹ 99.68 crore for four-laning of NH-703A from Kapurthala to Sultanpur Lodi has been received for sanction from the Chief Engineer (NH), Punjab *vide* letter dated 18.12.2018.

(e) and (f) Tarn Taran-Goindwal Sahib-Kapurthala road has been considered for “In-Principle” National Highway (NH) on 06.11.2017, however final decision to declare it as NH depends on outcome of DPR.

FASTags to VIPs for toll-free ride

1517. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to provide about 10,000 to 12,000 FASTags for vehicles of those who are entitled for free ride through toll plazas on National Highways (NHs) across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) A Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for issuance of FASTags to various exempted categories as defined in National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, as amended, is under consideration in the Ministry.

Widening of road to Shirdi

1518. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has any plan to widen the road to Shirdi which is a pilgrimage centre in Maharashtra and if so, whether there is any plan to widen this road circle enough to carry increased traffic load; and

(b) the proposed time-frame for completion of the said road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Sinnar-Shirdi section of National Highway-160 has been envisaged under Bharatmala Pariyojana. Bidding process to upgrade the Sinnar-Shirdi section to 4-lane has been initiated.

(b) The project is targeted for completion by November, 2021.