

**Road projects in NE region**

†835. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government for the development of the North-Eastern region;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to make a network of roads for the development of the North-Eastern region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Ministry has already taken up massive road development programme in North-Eastern region under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE). Under this programme 2910 km road has already been developed and 3508 km is under implementation. Besides SARDP-NE, 5507 km road has been identified for development under Bharatmala Pariyojana in North-Eastern Region.

**Status of highway projects**

836. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that all land and environmental clearances are obtained before awarding highway projects to concessionaires;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is taking any step to establish a dispute redressal mechanism for clearing stressed or delayed road projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The process of awarding the contract involves various stages which includes appointment of consultant for DPR preparation, finalization of DPRs, appraisal of the project by the Competent Authorities, invitation of bids and finalization of successful bidders. Further, the projects are awarded based on the preparedness in terms of pre-construction activities mainly in

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

land acquisition. As per current stipulation, projects are appraised by the Competent Authority after 3D is notified for a substantial portion of land and compensation award is declared for majority of the acquired land. Also, as per Concession Agreement, 80% of the land in respect of BOT projects and 90 per cent of the length for EPC projects should be available for declaration of the appointed date.

As a consequence of the MoEF modified guidelines and also the modification of criteria for obtaining environment clearance, there is no longer a requirement of Environment Clearance (EC) for a large number of projects.

(c) and (d) Following the decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the provisions contained in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, with the approval of NHAI Board, two nos. of Conciliation Committee of Independent Experts (CCIE-1 and CCIE-2) have been constituted. Till date 19 cases have been referred to and dealt by CCIE, out of which 6 conciliation failed, 8 succeeded and 5 are ongoing.

#### **Conversion of fuel driven vehicles into electric vehicles**

†837. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to convert the petrol and diesel run Government vehicles into electric run vehicles;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Finance, in its advisory dated 22nd December, 2018, to all the Ministries/Departments have written that they may aim to replace the petrol and diesel cars hired by Ministries/Departments in their Secretariats and attached offices (located in Delhi) through contractors by electric cars for mobility in Delhi. In cases where existing contracts for hiring of petrol/diesel vehicles have come to an end, Ministries/Departments may consider fresh contract for hiring electric vehicles. Further, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had notified GSR 629(E) dated 24th June, 2016 for retro-fitment of hybrid electric system or electric kit to vehicles running on petrol and diesel and S.O. 1013(E) dated 15th April, 2015 specifying the type approval procedure of electric hybrid vehicles.

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