

Construction of NHs under Bharatmala project

†1577. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of construction/upgradation of 35,000 kilometers of National Highways by 2022 has been fixed under the Bharatmala Project;

(b) whether Government has completed the work of identification of those highways which would be included under this scheme; and

(c) whether those States would be given priority under Bharatmala Project where the availability of highways is quite less than the national average in proportion to the population density?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) The Government of India had approved Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I in October, 2017 with an aggregate length of about 34, 800 km. (including 10, 000 km. residual NHDP stretches) at an estimated outlay of ₹ 5, 35, 000.00 crores for development of about 9, 000 km. length of Economic corridors, about 6, 000 km length of Inter-corridor and feeder roads, about 5, 000 km. length of National Corridors Efficiency improvements, about 2, 000 km. length of Border and International connectivity roads, about 2, 000 km. length of Coastal and port connectivity roads, about 800 km. length of Expressways. Various road stretches have been identified for development under this scheme. Development of highway stretches is taken up post finalization of alignment, cost estimates, land acquisition requirement etc. based on outcome of Detailed Project Report (DPR)/ Feasibility Study, project viability, *inter-se*-priority and availability of funds. Under Bharatmala Pariyojana programme, it has been envisaged to provide connectivity to 550 districts in the country for improvement in National Highways density across the country.

Road accidents due to potholes

1578. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to potholes on National Highways (NHs), number of road accidents have increased and many lives were lost and many people were injured during the last one year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.