

**Exemption for local people at NH toll plazas**

†2384. SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where traffic jam is caused on National Highways due to toll plazas and the number of FASTAGs issued which enable vehicles to uninterruptedly pass through the toll plazas;

(b) whether Government is considering to exempt the movement of agricultural vehicles of local farmers through toll plazas on NHs;

(c) whether Government is considering to exempt the vehicles of the local people for their uninterrupted movement through toll plazas; and

(d) the number of toll plazas where the exemption is being given for the movement of local vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has identified approximately 60 high traffic fee plazas. Strategies are being developed to monitor these fee plazas in view of 100 Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) mandate *w.e.f.* 15.12.2019. As on 03.12.2019, a total of 82.55 Lakh FASTag have been issued.

(b) As per sub-rule 4 of Rule 3 of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, "No fee shall be levied for the use of the section of national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, by two wheelers, three wheelers, tractors, combine harvesters and animal drawn vehicles.

Provided the three wheeler, tractors, combine harvesters and animal-drawn vehicles shall not be allowed to use the section of national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, where a service road or alternative road is available *in lieu* of the said national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel.

Provided further that where service road or alternative road is available and the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

owner, driver or the person in charge of a two wheeler is making use of the section of national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, he or she shall be charged fifty per cent of the fee levied on a car."

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Steps to monitor toll fees**

2385. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any action has been taken by Government to decrease the ever increasing toll prices/fees at various toll plazas situated at various National Highways and Expressways; and
- (b) whether any proper monitoring system has been put in place to track the payments/annual collections of toll fees on these National Highways and Expressways?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) User fee collected is deposited in Consolidated Fund of India in respect of Public Funded projects and in Escrow account in respect of PPP projects. A system of monitoring is already in place to track the payment/ annual collection of user fee collected on National Highways.

#### **Connecting North-East region through alternative water route**

2386. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to connect North-East region through an alternative water route;
- (b) if so, the details of the plan and projects thereon; and
- (c) the details of time target for implementation of the proposed plan?