

(b) and (c) Out of ₹ 7425 crore allocated for development and ₹ 172 crore for repair during these years, an amount of ₹ 7425 crore and Rs 112 crore respectively have been utilized. In addition, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) carries out maintenance of National Highways entrusted with them through Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) modes. These works are carried out after completion as per provisions of the agreement signed for individual work.

(d) To ensure timely/early completion of works, issues relating to the State Government/District Administration, Utility owning departments, Forest Department and other concerned State/Central Agencies are taken up with them for expediting Land Acquisition and other pre-construction activities. Besides regular monitoring of projects with respective Authority/Independent Engineer and Contractor/Concessionaire is done.

Conversion of State Highways to NHs in MP

†928. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals regarding declaring various State Highways of Madhya Pradesh as National Highways (NHs) is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether declaration of the said State Highways as National Highways (NHs) and speeding up of their construction/upgradation work is scheduled to be completed in a fixed time-frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals from various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), etc., including the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, for declaration of State roads, including State Highways (SHs), as new National Highways (NHs). The Ministry considers declaration of some State roads, including SHs, as new NHs from time to time based on requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Total length of NHs have been increased from about 91,287 km. in April, 2014 to about 1,32,500 km. at present. The length of NHs in the State of Madhya Pradesh has increased from about 5,116 km. to 8,772 km. during this period.

Development and maintenance of NHs, including newly declared NHs, is a continuous process. Works on the NHs are accordingly taken up as per *inter-se* priority, traffic density and overall available resources to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition.

Hefty challans under Motor Vehicles Act

929. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a truck owner from Rajasthan had to pay a fine of ₹1,41,700 for overloading his truck on September 5, 2019 in Delhi;

(b) whether such hefty challan incidents have coursed panic among the people; and

(c) if so, whether there are any plans to amend the law to reduce the fines?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) As per the information available, with effect from 1 September, 2019, in regard to the coming into force of penalty provisions of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019, the challans for the violations in Delhi are being referred to the Court.

(b) Initially with the coming into force of certain provisions of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 including penalties for violations as notified with effect from 1st September, 2019, there were initial apprehensions about the implementation which got settled in due course.

(c) No, Sir.

Speed governors in commercial vehicles

930. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed governors in commercial vehicles as mandated by Supreme Court and Government shall be installed in commercial vehicles under the strict surveillance of the State Transport Departments; and