

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the National Highways in the North-East are in deplorable condition;

(b) whether it is a fact that NH-44 is damaged at various places and the work of four laning is not in progress; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Development and Maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. The works are accordingly taken up on NHs from time to time as per *inter se* priority, traffic density, and availability of fund to keep road in traffic worthy conditions.

(b) and (c) To keep NH-44 in traffic worthy conditions an amount of ₹ 35.49 crore has been allocated during 2019-20 in Tripura. Further work for widening and strengthening of 124 km. for an amount of ₹ 565.57 crore has been approved, out of which work in 25 km. has been taken up for an amount of ₹ 171.90 crore.

#### **Noise pollution from vehicle horns**

1251. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that noise pollution levels on roads are much higher than the ambient air quality standards prescribed by the Noise Pollution Rules, 2000;

(b) the reason that the noise range for vehicular horns exceeds the standards set and whether there are plans to alter it;

(c) the number of people booked for having horns that exceed the upper limit of 112 decibels in the last five years;

(d) whether there have been any Governmental efforts to work with horn manufacturers to curb the production of horns that violate standards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) CPCB in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution

Control Committees has established National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network of Real Time Basis in 07 metropolitan cities and installed 70 nos. of Noise Monitoring System in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Lucknow and Hyderabad (10 Nos. of stations in each city) under Phase-I and Phase-II of the programme. Based on the noise data generated for the last five years *i.e.* 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 of 07 cities following observations are made:—

1. During day time, 16 out of 16 stations in residential zone, 24 out of 25 in commercial zone, 3 out of 12 in industrial zone and 16 out of 17 in silence zone are non-complying with ambient noise standards.
2. Similarly, during night time 16 out of 16 stations in residential zone, 25 out of 25 in commercial zone, 4 out of 12 in industrial zone and 17 out of 17 in silence zone are non-complying with ambient noise standards.

(b) As per Rule 119 of CMVR, horn as a component to comply with IS:1884-1992; horn installation requirements are governed by IS:15796. Form 22 (initial certificate of compliance with pollution standards, safety standards of component quality and road worthiness) issued by the manufacturer indicates noise level of horns, bystanders position and at operators ear level in the case of agricultural tractor and Construction Equipments Vehicles. No motor vehicle, including agricultural tractor and combine harvester, shall be fitted with any multi-tones horn giving a succession of different notes or with any other sound producing device giving an unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise.

(c) This Ministry has not been reported on the number of people booked for having horns that exceed the upper limit of 112 decibels in the last five years.

(d) and (e) Section 182A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 as amended *vide* the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 prescribed a penalty with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine of one lakh rupees for such component or with both, whoever, sells or offers to sell, or permits the sale of any component which does not comply with the provisions of Chapter VII or the rules and regulation made there under. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, *vide* letter dated 12th June, 2017 and 11th August, 2017 has issued an advisory to all the State Governments and Union Territories to strictly follow the provisions of rule 119 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 regarding multi toned horns.