

The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals from various State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs), including from the State Government of Rajasthan, for declaration of State roads, including State Highways (SHs), as new 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.

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

Various sources of fund for development of NHs are CRIF, Toll Remittances, monetization of NH stretches on Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) mode, budgetary allocation, Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), private sector financing, etc.

The Ministry also allocates funds for State Roads under CRF/CRIF and Economic Importance and Inter State Connectivity (EI&ISC) schemes as per the provisions of the CRF Act, 2000 amended by the Finance Act from time to time.

Cutting down vehicular emission

1259. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any action to cut down vehicular emission by promoting the use of non-motorised vehicle transport like e-vehicles, etc. all over the country, particularly in metro cities at mass level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) In order to cut down vehicles emission by boosting the operation of electric vehicles, the Government, *vide* S.O. 5333(E) dated 18th October, 2018 has granted exemption to the Battery Operated Transport Vehicles from the requirements of permit. The Government has also notified that the registration mark for Battery Operated Vehicles to be on a green background for their identification. Further, the Government *vide*, G.S.R. 1225(E), dated 20th December, 2018 had notified certain specifications for the grant of licence to the age group of 16-18 years to drive gearless

electric two wheeler upto 4.0 KW. These measures will create a favourable ecosystem for growth of electric vehicles in public transport and shared mobility and boost the demand for environment friendly vehicles in the country. Ministry has also issued an advisory dated 17th July, 2019 to all States and Union Territories to promote use of electric vehicles.

Average length of development of roads

1260. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the length of development of roads has increased from about 12 km. during 2013-14 to about 30 km. till December, 2019;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the year 2019, projects for more than 3200 km. length have been awarded and roughly 6,000 km. roads have been constructed during 2019; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) The average rate of highways construction was 11.67 km. per day in financial year 2013-14 and the same was about 30 km. per day during 2018-19 and average rate of construction during 2019 -20 till December 2019 is 25.24 km. per day.

(b) and (c) In financial year 2019-20, road projects having length about 3434 km. have been awarded and 6940 km length of highways has been constructed till December, 2019.

Removal of speed breakers along NHs

1261. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any special drive for the removal of speed breakers along National Highways to ensure smooth traffic movement, following the introduction of the mandatory FASTag mechanism for cashless toll payments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?