

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) As the Concessionaire had stopped the construction work since Oct-18 on account of his financial crisis, length of four lane constructed in last calendar year (2019) in this project is NIL. This project awarded under DBFOT got delayed due to financial crisis of the Concessionaire and also due to initial delays in Land Acquisition and other pre-construction activities.

(c) Decision on change of developer of the concessionaire will depend on the outcome of the forensic audit and study by the lenders.

Waiting time of vehicles at toll plazas

138. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average waiting time of vehicles at toll plazas, rose 29 per cent between December, 2019 and January, 2020 even after rollout of electronic toll collection through FASTags;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the waiting time of vehicles at toll plazas?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) According to the Government mandate, all fee lanes except one fee lane in each direction are to be declared as dedicated FASTag Lane of the fee plaza. As a result, the waiting time in the hybrid lane which accepts cash has increased because of non-FASTag vehicles. Waiting time in dedicated FASTag lanes has significantly reduced. It has been observed that more waiting time in cash lanes vis-a-vis FASTag lanes has worked as catalyst for adoption of FASTag. As on 28.01.2020, more than 1.4 Crores FASTag have been issued and approximately 1 lakh FASTag are being issued on a daily basis. Waiting time will further reduce in future with further adoption of FASTag by non-FASTag vehicles.

(c) FASTag awareness program is being conducted through various platforms such as social media, print media, hoardings, advertisements, etc. Multiple channels and Point of Sale (PoS) have been operating including e-commerce platforms for

easy availability of FASTag to customers. In December 2019, Government has released TV awareness campaign on FASTag featuring famous film actor with an attempt to bring in awareness and behavioural change amongst users towards user fee payment.

Bharatmala project in Konkan, Maharashtra

139. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the roads constructed/and being constructed in the districts under Konkan region in Maharashtra under the Bharatmala project;

(b) deadline set to complete the under-construction roads;

(c) whether any delay is being caused in the completion of said roads, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps to be taken by Government to achieve its goal in the view of above circumstances, and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) Road construction work of 4-laning of Panvel-Zarap section of NH-17 (Mumbai -Goa road) and 6/8-laning of Vadape-Thane of NH-3 in the Konkan region of Maharashtra has been started under Bharatmala Pariyojana and is in different stages of implementation. The entire length from Panvel-Zarap (438 km. in II Nos. packages) and Vadape-Thane (21 km. in 01 No. package) is targeted for completion by December, 2020 and July, 2021 respectively.

Some of the packages have been delayed due to delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, forest clearance, inadequate mobilization of resources by concessionaire/contractors etc.

The delayed projects are reviewed periodically at all levels for resolution of issues responsible for delay.

Monetisation of publicly funded and completed NHs

140. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: