

- (a) the number of National Highway (NH) Projects taken up for renovation/repairs/completion along with NH-2 passing through Andhra Pradesh during the past two years in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the quantum of funds earmarked and released along with the utilisation thereof;
- (c) whether any works have been left incomplete;
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government for their early completion?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) A Total number of 52 projects with an aggregate cost of ₹ 17,652 crore for development, and 357 works with an aggregate cost of ₹ 211.15 crore for repair of National Highways were taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the past two years and current year. For development and maintenance and repair, expenditure of ₹10,597 crore and ₹166 crore have been incurred respectively. The stretch of NH-2 does not pass through the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The work of rehabilitation and upgradation of Nagarjunasagar Dam to Davulapalli section of NH 565 to two lanes with paved shoulders in 47 Km length and amounting to ₹ 195.45 Crore was terminated due to non-performance of contractor after division of State into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

(e) In order to expedite the National Highway Projects and ensure early completion, efficient coordination with the State/District Administration is maintained, specially with regard to land acquisition, removal of hindrances and shifting of utilities, etc. Further, all efforts are made to pursue statutory clearances from the Forest Department. The work is closely monitored by concerned officers for successful and time bound execution.

Bus accident in Tamil Nadu

2535. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of a recent bus accident in Tamil Nadu in which 19 people died;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, the reasons for accident, whether it is because of not maintaining standard of median in National Highways;
- (d) if so, the details of the standard size of median in NHs and State highways; and
- (e) the action taken for not maintaining standard size median in highways?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (e) As per report from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, an accident took place on 20-02-2020 at 3.30 A.M. on National Highways (NH-544), near Ruchi Hotel, Avinashi Bye pass (Coimbatore to Salem road) in Thirumurugan Poondi Police Station limit, Avinashi Taluk, Tiruppur district in Tamil Nadu.

A Vehicle- HMV LORRY (Container) No. KL07CS6325 was proceeding from Ernakulam to Salem and at around 3.20 A.M. on 20-02-2020, the driver lost control over the vehicle which rammed over the centre median and passed to the opposite lane. The KSRTC Omni bus was coming from the opposite side towards Ernakulam from Bangalore. After the lorry rammed the centre median, the container was detached from the driver cabin and fell in the opposite lane with which the Omni Bus collided leading to 19 fatalities and 24 injuries.

As per aforesaid report, the median at the accident location was in conformity with the IRC guidelines.

Steps to encourage BOT road projects

2536. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is conceptualizing any plan to rekindle the interest of private investors and lenders in the highway projects, in view of economic slowdown and problems in Build-Operate- Transfer (BOT) projects;