

Funds for road projects

1768. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to held up the second round of funding for road building under the Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South Corridor Project;

(b) whether it was found that a few States had diverted funds meant for road building to other areas; and

(c) whether disbursements under the CRF kitty are going as per the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South Corridor Projects are being implemented directly by National Highways Authority of India and therefore the question of diversion of funds by States, does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The disbursement of funds from CRF for National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is going on as per the schedule.

Suggestions of Road Safety Forum

1769. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India is not acting and responding positively to the various suggestions made by the Road Safety Forum to improve road safety;

(b) if so, what steps NHAI would take to co-operate and improve road safety in public interest;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Forum wants to suggest various measures to enhance road safety;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get the matter examined at higher level; and

(e) what steps NHAI would take to carry along diverse opinions in this matter in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a)

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) gives due consideration to suggestions on road safety received from various forums and organizations, including Road Safety Forum.

(b) With a view to involve the various organizations related to Road Sector, an advisory group of external stakeholders comprising representatives from the State Governments, Industry and Transport Sector, Non-Government Organisations active in Road Safety, etc., has been constituted in NHAI. Meetings of this group are held under the chairmanship of Chairman, NHAI, at regular intervals to consider various aspects of highway construction including road safety.

(c) NHAI had interacted with the Forum and they proposed to hold a seminar in this regard. The Forum has not responded further.

(d) and (e) The opinions of various Stakeholders are reflected in the Advisory Group formed by NHAI.

Problems due to expansion of roads

1770. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the duty of the Director General of Roads to find engineering solutions to various problems being faced by the public due to expansion or development of new roads and highways;

(b) if so, how many requests are pending with the Director General of Roads for finding engineering solutions of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to study such problems;

(d) to what extent the Director General of Roads Development is not able to find adequate technical expertise for even relatively simple problems posed by the public; and

(e) whether Government would consider engaging expert staff to tackle such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI):

(a) The office of Director General (Road Development) and Special Secretary is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. It also provides technical advice on matters relating to the development of other roads, wherever required.

(b) and (c) Some suggestions were received from an organisation for enhancement of road safety on a stretch of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.