

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:883
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
POOR QUALITY OF HIGHWAYS
Paswan Shri Virchandra

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of highways the country loses about Rs.10,000 crore a year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) whether the average mileage of trucks is 250-300 kilometers per day in India whereas it is 600-800 kilometers per day globally;
- (d) if so, whether 50% of our national highways are in poor condition and 30% highways are single-lane; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct national highways of international standards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

- (a) and (b) There are economic losses due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of the highways. However, it is difficult to quantify such losses accurately.
- (c) Road freight operations are almost entirely in the hands of the private sector and the vehicle fleet in India comprises different categories of vehicles having different mileage levels. Though no authentic details of mileage of trucks in the country are available, it is known that the distance covered by road freight carriers are lower than developed countries due to constraints of capacity and quality of roads.
- (d) The National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The total length of National Highways in the country at present is 65,569 km. Out of this, about 18% of the road lengths are of single-lane width.
- (e) Several measures/programmes like National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which includes 4/6-laning of existing National Highways have been taken up for improvement/development of the National Highways.