

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4140

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

REVISION OF TOLL TAX

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pandey Saroj;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan;Shantha J.;Sharma Dr. Arvind Kumar;Sharma Shri Jagdish;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) whether the Union Government/National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are considering to revise the rate of toll tax and fuel surcharge and introduce new taxes on toll roads for the people using National Highways/Express Highways for transport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage increase registered in the rate during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, Highway and Expressway-wise;
- (c) the details of the number of times the rate of toll tax has been increased, the amount of increase and the reasons therefore alongwith the maximum number of times toll tax can be levied on a whole stretch of National Highway/Expressway; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the burden of high road tax/toll on the common man using such NH/Expressway?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c) The National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 provide for the revision of rates on annual basis based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and other economic factors. Rule 5 of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008 provides for annual revision by 3% plus forty percent of the change in WPI on year to year basis and notified in the Gazette of India. The details of percentage increase registered in the rate during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, Highway and Expressway-wise is at Annexure 'I' and 'II'. The Rule provide that the user fee is levied and collected in perpetuity and prescribe the rate of user fee to be levied per vehicle per trip. Discount rates are also prescribed for multiple journey to cross a toll plaza within the specified period. No new tax is proposed to be introduced for the users, outside the said rules.

(d) The user fee is generally not being charged from road users except in respect of projects taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Toll basis or for completed four/six lane of national highways or in the event of crossing a bridge or a bypass or tunnel forming a part of such section of national highway. Further, no user fee is levied for the use of section of national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, by the slow moving vehicles like two wheelers, three wheelers, tractors and animal drawn vehicles where the service road or alternative road is not available.