

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:157

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATOR FOR ROAD SECTOR

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) functions as executing agency as well as a regulator to monitor the development, management and maintenance of the National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish an independent regulatory authority for the road sector to address the concern of all stakeholders including road users;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of The House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 157 ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2013 ASKED BY SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO AND SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI SI REGARDING 'INDEPENDENT REGULATOR FOR ROAD SECTOR'

(a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is a statutory body created through an Act of Parliament, namely the NHAI Act 1988 functions as an executing agency and is responsible for development, management and maintenance of national highways. NHAI has also been given mandate to monitor and look after all the aspects of the interests of road users which encompasses timely completion of constructions, repairs, street lightings on national highways and all other passenger amenities as per provisions of the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) including safety and technical aspects, service level of obligation, congestion, etc.

(c) to (e) The Government has announced to constitute a regulatory authority for the road sector to address the challenges such as financial stress, enhanced construction risk and contract management issues that are best addressed by an independent regulator. Consultations with various stakeholders on the issue of setting up of the proposed independent regulator have been done to address important issues like scope of the proposed regulator, degree of autonomy and its legal framework. A proposal in this regard has already been circulated amongst all the concerned Ministries/Departments by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for their comments and suggestions. As many of the important issues like scope for the proposed regulator, degree of autonomy and its constitution have not been finalised, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time frame.