

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:165

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

ROAD PROJECTS

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether a study conducted by the World Bank has indicated that the Indian road construction industry is facing shortfall in skilled manpower and expressed its concern over the poor state of roads built in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedies suggested by the said study;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 FOR ANSWER ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2009 ASKED BY SHRI S. SEMMALAI AND SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR REGARDING ROAD PROJECTS

(a) & (b) A Study by the World Bank Titled "Indian Road Construction Industry" was published in November, 2008. The Study does not make any reference to the poor state of roads built in the country. However, it highlights the fact that given the high growth scenario, there will be shortage to the extent of 55 to 64% over the next eight years in skilled/semi- skilled man power. The details of the recommendations in short, medium and long terms are enclosed as Annex.

(c) & (d) The Government is already seized of the various issues relating to roads sector including capacity building. The National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers(NITHE), under the aegis of this Ministry has trained over 17,985 highway engineers since 2001. B.K. Chaturvedi Committee appointed by the Government has made wide ranging recommendations on some issues covered in the World Bank Study, which have been accepted by the Government.

Annex

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 165 FOR ANSWER ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2009 ASKED BY SHRI S. SEMMALAI AND SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR REGARDING ROAD PROJECTS

Key recommendations of World Bank Report November, 2008

A) Immediate and short-term actions (0-2 years):

- i) Strengthen sector policy, institutional structure and regulation
- ii) Promote Indian road sector and knowledge sharing
- iii) Strengthen contract enforcement and dispute resolution
- iv) Strengthen incentives for on-time completion and use of alternative contract structures
- v) Streamline pre-construction clearances and customs
- vi) Improve transparency and increase competition in the bidding process
- vii) Review the effectiveness of subsidies, fiscal concessions and taxation

B) Medium term action (2-5 years):

- i) Facilitate access to finance/credit
- ii) Ensure availability of key materials
- iii) Enhance the quality of available resources
- iv) Adjust provisions of standard works contract to focus more on timely achievement of results

C) Long term actions (5-10 years):

- i) Widen the ambit of reform in the road sector and implement policies launched in the short and medium terms, promoting the sector overseas and setting up more specialized training centres.

