

Road and Road Transport

9.35 India has more than 3 million km. of road network, making it one of the largest in the world. However, the quality of the roads is inappropriate and cannot meet the needs of efficient and fast moving transportation. National Highways that are the prime arterial route span about 52010 km. throughout the country and cater to about 40 per cent of the total road transport demand.

9.36 There has been a decline in the allocation of funds over various plan periods in terms of the percentage of total plan outlay. Due to constraint of funds, an allocation of Rs. 2163 crore only was made for central sector roads for the year 1999-2000 as compared to allocation of Rs.2230 crore for the year 1998-99.

9.37 The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) was constituted under the National Highway Authority of India Act, 1988 and was made operational in February 1995. Initially it was entrusted with the task of implementing five externally aided NH improvement projects. Subsequently, it was asked to implement several other projects including some BOT projects on National Highways. NHAI has been mandated to implement National Highway Development Program (NHDP) which constitutes 4/6 laning of Golden Quadrilateral Connecting Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Calcutta-Delhi and North-South and East-West Corridors connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra respectively and Salem to Cochin. A task force headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is monitoring this program and is targeted to be completed by the year 2009. The total length to be upgraded under NHDP is 13,252 km approx. and total fund requirement will be around Rs.54,000 crore. The NHAI has already started upgradation of National highways on the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West corridors. On the GQ, 504 km have

already been four laned, construction is in progress on 716 km and project preparation activities are in progress in the balance.

9.38 To augment the resources, additional excise/customs duty at the rate of rupee 1.0 per litre was levied on petrol *w.e.f.* June 2, 1998. To rationalise the system, a similar additional levy of Rupee 1.0 per litre was imposed on HSD *w.e.f.* February 28, 1999. 50 per cent of this levy on diesel will be used to support rural connectivity. Balance 50 per cent of this levy along with the duty of Rs. 1 per litre on petrol levied with effect from June 2, 1998 will be transferred to the Central Road Fund. Out of this fund, 30 per cent will be reserved for development schemes on State Roads and balance amount will be used for the development and maintenance of National Highways for construction of Rail/Road Overbridges (ROBs) and other Railway Safety Works at unmanned railway crossings. Most of these funds would be used for implementation of National Highway Development Project (NHDP). In the long run, these funds will be utilized for the development and maintenance of entire National Highway Network. The cess on petrol and HSD is likely to yield Rs.5,000 crore per year as per current price levels. A detailed proposal on estimated fund and its allocation between various sectors and schemes is currently under consideration of Government. Rs. 1900 crore have been made available to Ministry of Surface Transport (MoST) during the current year for special repairs and NHDP/GQ.

9.39 To encourage private sector participation, a Model Concession Agreement for major projects costing more than Rs.100 crore has been finalized to be undertaken under BOT Scheme. Another Model Concession Agreement for projects less than Rs.100 crore has also been finalized by MoST. To date 20 projects involving an investment of around Rs.1000 crore have already been taken under BOT scheme (Box 9.3).

BOX 9.3

List of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects Awarded as on 8th September, 1999

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | NH No. | State | Length in Km | Cost in Rs. Crore | Date of Signing | Likely/ Actual date of completion | Agency | Current Status |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass * | 3&4 | Maharashtra | 24 | 103 | 12/09/95 | 31.12.2001 | MOST | In Progress |
| 2. | Chalthan Road Over Bridge** | 8 | Gujarat | 4-LANE | 10 | 19/09/96 | 15.07.1998 | MOST | Completed |
| 3. | Udaipur Bypass** | 8 | Rajasthan | 11 | 24 | July 96 | 22.04.1998 | MOST | Completed |
| 4. | Construction of six bridges | 5 | Andhra Pradesh | 6 nos. Bridges | 50 | 9.04.97 | 08.06.2001 | MOST | In Progress |
| 5. | Coimbatore Bypass | 47 | Tamil Nadu | 33 | 90 | 3.10.1997 | 03.12.1999 | MOST | In Progress |
| 6. | Durg Bypass | 6 | Madhya Pradesh | 18.4 | 68 | 5.11.1997 | 5.05.2000 | NHAI | In Progress |
| 7. | Narmada bridge | 8 | Gujarat | 6 | 113 | 21.11.1997 | 21.12.2000 | MOST | In Progress |
| 8. | Nardhana ROB ** | 3 | Maharashtra | 13 | 34.21 | 25.11.1997 | 22.07.1999 | MOST | Completed |
| 9. | Patalganga Bridge & ROB ** | 17 | Maharashtra | 1No. | 33.3 | 29.11.1997 | 20.07.1999 | MOST | Completed |
| 10. | Hubli-Dharwar Bypass | 4 | Karnataka | 30.35 | 68 | 5.02.1998 | 5.11.2001 | MOST | In Progress |
| 11. | Nellor Bypass | 5 | Andhra Pradesh | 18 | 73 | 17.2.1998 | 17.02.2001 | NHAI | Concession Agreement signed. |
| 12. | Koratalaiyar Bridge | 5 | Tamil Nadu | | 30 | 28.10.1998 | Oct., 2000 | MOST | In Progress |
| 13. | Khambatki Ghat tunnel & Road | 4 | Maharashtra | 8 | 37.8 | 16.11.1998 | Nov., 2000 | MOST | In Progress |
| 14. | Nasirabad ROB | 6 | Maharashtra | 30m | 10.45 | 16.11.1998 | Nov., 1999 | MOST | In Progress |
| 15. | Wainganga Bridge | 6 | Maharashtra | 530m | 32.6 | 16.11.1998 | May, 2001 | MOST | In Progress |
| 16. | Mahi Bridge | 8 | Gujarat | | 42 | 16.11.1998 | July, 2000 | MOST | In Progress |
| 17. | Kishangarh Bypass ROB | 8 | Rajasthan | | 16.66 | 27.11.1998 | 25.04.2000 | NHAI | In Progress |
| 18. | Bridge across river Watrak | 8 | Gujarat | | 48.2 | 01.03.1999 | 31.12.2009 | MOST | In Progress |
| 19. | Moradabad Bypass | 24 | Uttar Pradesh | 18 | 100 | 23.04 1999 | 23.10.2001 | NHAI | In Progress |
| 20. | Derabassi ROB | 22 | Punjab | | 35.76 | 08.09.1999 | | MOST | Concession Agreement signed. |
| TOTAL | | | | | 1019.98 | | | | |

* Original Work Since completed and opened to traffic. Widening to four lanes is in progress.

** Since completed and opened to traffic.