GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1699 ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2024

DEVELOPING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMRITSAR

1699. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that Amritsar being a major tourist destination and having a dense population, there are issues of severe road congestion, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to address the issues sustainably by bringing metro system, rope ways, electric buses and capsules while reducing environmental impact, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering for allocating special budget for developing transport infrastructure of Amritsar into a world class eco-friendly system, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) (i) The Central Government is responsible for development & maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. The

roads other than NHs are the responsibility of State Government and other local Authorities. The roads in the city portion of Amritsar fall under the jurisdiction of State Government of Punjab.

However, keeping in view that Amritsar is one of the most prominent cities of the country in terms of heritage, culture, and socio-religious importance, Government has taken several measures to enhance the travel experience and improve convenience to tourists traveling to Amritsar by roads.

Some of the important National Highway Development Projects taken up by NHAI in and around Amritsar are Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway including Spur for Amritsar connectivity, Amritsar Bypass (to facilitate movement of visitors to Attari-Wagah Border), Amritsar-Ramdas corridor (to facilitate tourists visiting Kartarpur Sahib), Amritsar-Una Corridor (connecting Amritsar to Anandpur Sahib) and Beas-Batala-Dera Baba Nanak corridor (connecting Beas to Kartarpur Sahib Corridor).

(ii) 'Urban planning' is a State subject. Therefore, the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations are responsible for planning, initiating and developing urban transport infrastructure including integration amongst various modes of public transport.

Central Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2006, Metro Rail Policy, 2017 and Transit Oriented Development Policy, 2017, which act as a guide to State Governments/UT Administrations for integrated planning and implementation of urban transport systems. Central Government considers financial assistance to urban rail based system based on feasibility of the proposal and availability of resources, as and when posed by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.

Presently, no proposal of Metro project in Amritsar has been received by Central Government from concerned State Government.

(iii) There are different schemes of Government of India such as "PM-eBus Sewa" Scheme of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and "PM E-DRIVE" Scheme of Ministry of Heavy Industries which

extend financial assistance for incentivisation of faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), setting up of charging infrastructure and development of EV manufacturing eco-system in the country. State Transport Corporations may send proposals to such Ministries for assistance.

(iv) Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. Taking into account the available international experiences and national studies, the tentative national level target under NCAP is 20%-30% reduction of particulate matter concentration by 2024. Target has been revised to achieve reduction in PM10 level up to 40% or achievement of national ambient air quality standards ($60 \mu g/m3$) by 2025-26.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 130 million plus/ non-attainment cities (cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), consecutively for five years) including Amritsar city of Punjab State. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in these 130 non-attainment/ million plus cities to improve the air quality.

As per the annual action plan information filled by Amritsar Municipal Corporation for FY2023-24, the following actions have been taken-up for e-vehicles in Amritsar city for reducing environmental impact:

- Incentives have been provided for purchasing 350 no. of Erickshaw/ E-Cart.
- 4 no. of E-charging stations have been installed in Amritsar city.
