

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) 13 proposals for declaration of state roads as National Highways in West Bengal had been received and have now been returned to the State Government in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the country at present due to fund constraints. The Government may however, consider declaration of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan from amongst the modified proposals to be received from various states keeping in view the traffic need, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Corridor between Assam and Gujarat

1001. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Purba-Paschim Corridor O Uttarbanga" in Ganashaki dated the 3rd July, 2002 reading East West corridor connecting Assam to Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the changes in the alignment in North Bengal as suggested in the news-item; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The alignment of East-West Corridor has already been finalised and it is not possible to change the alignment at this stage.

Golden Quadrangle Project

1002. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided that a part of the Eastern and Western expressways in the Golden Quadrangle being constructed by the National Highways Authority of India would pass through Delhi Territory.

(b) if so, the areas through which this Highway would pass; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) by when the work on it would commence and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Information sought relate to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty alleviation. National Capital Region Planning Board under the aegis of Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has decided alignments for Western and Eastern Peripheral Expressways around Delhi. The proposed alignment of Western Peripheral expressway passes through National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana, while that of Eastern Peripheral Expressway passes through Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It has been agreed in principle that the Western Peripheral Expressway may be implemented by National Highways Authority of India as a part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) provided 150 meters wide land along the entire alignment, is acquired by the respective State Governments and made available free of cost, to NHAI.

(c) It is too early to indicate the dates of commencement and completion of the work.

Length of National Highways in Eastern States

1003. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the length of the National Highways in Maharashtra, U.R, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The details are as under:—

Name of the State	Length of National Highways (in km.)
Maharashtra	3626
Uttar Pradesh	4942
Uttaranchal	1075
Bihar	3502
Jharkhand	1413
Orissa	3301
West Bengal	1951