

- (d) The decrease in freight charges is on account of the following reasons:
  - (i) The financial crisis which originated in United States of America and has spread to Europe and other countries is having an effect worldwide. China, a major engine for growth, has a large stockpile of iron ore and coal. Construction in China has come to a standstill and as a result steel demand has dropped steeply.
  - (ii) The prices of major traded commodities, for example, iron ore, steel, other ores, metals etc. have collapsed due to lack of demand, primary industries have been affected the most and the slump in demand and high inventory of raw materials of these industries has resulted in trade in these commodities coming to a standstill.
  - (iii) Trade has also been hampered by the lack of confidence between Banks from whom the Letters of Credit are routed.
  - (iv) the export of iron from India has virtually come to a standstill due to pricing issues and a reduction of demand in China.
  - (v) The competition is fierce which is putting heavy pressure on freight rates.

#### **Four-laning of NH-5**

1197. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work of four-laning of NH-5 on Golden Quadrilateral has not been completed in the part of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the stretches which have not been completed and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to complete them;
- (d) whether Government has received any representation or memorandum from any individual, group of people, public representatives, Government or private body regarding such delay in completion of this project on NH-5;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any time-frame for completion of this project; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement (see below).

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Number of representations have been received from public representatives, which have been suitably replied.

(f) and (g) Details are given in the Statement.

### **Statement**

*The status of on-going four-lane National Highway projects on Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) in the state of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal is as below:-*

Sl. No.	Section	NH	Total Length (in km.)	Length Completed (in km.)	Schedule date for completion	Present Status
1.	Bhadrak-Balasore (km 136.50 to km 199.141) in Orissa	5	62.64	35.56	Dec, 2010	Original contract terminated, balance work has been awarded in November, 2008
2.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (km 338.00 to km 284.00) in Orissa	5	56.16	20.34	Dec, 2010	Original contract terminated, bid for balance work is under finalization.
3.	Ganjam-Ichapuram (km 284.00 to km 233.00) in Orissa	5	50.81	14.58	June, 2009	Original contract terminated, balance work has been awarded in July, 2006.
4.	Major bridges between km 17.60 to 136 (Dhankuni to Kharagpur) on NH-6 in West Bengal	6	9 bridges	8 bridges completed	Dec, 2010	Original contract terminated, bids for balance work have been invited.

### **Four-laning of EW corridor in NE States**

1198. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the four-laning of East-West corridor in the parts covering Assam and other North-Eastern States;
- (b) the reasons for inordinate delay and target set for time bound completion;
- (c) whether the committed four-laning of NH-52 from Bihata to Bandardowa under State Capital connectivity is being executed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether his Ministry has planned to provide paved shoulder along the double laned part NH-52 from Bihata to North Lakhimpur;