

Connecting Tribal areas by National Highway

1897. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;-

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for "the construction of a National Highway connecting Adivasi areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Dadra-Nagar-Haveli, via Vapi so as to link the tribal belt for the development of Adivasi areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the estimated cost thereof and by when the construction of the same is likely to be completed;

(c) if the answer to part(a) above be in the negative, the reasons there for;

(d) whether any requests in this regard have been received by Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) There is no proposal under Government's consideration for the construction of a National Highway connecting Adivasi areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Dadra-Nagar-Haveli, via Vapi so as to link the tribal belt for the development of Adivasi areas;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The new National Highways are declared on All-India basis subject to availability of adequate resources for the purpose and subject to fulfilment, of the following criteria;

(i) "Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;

(ii) Roads connecting adjacent countries;

(iii) Roads connecting State capitals;

(iv) Roads connecting major Ports and important industrial or tourist centres;

(v) Roads meeting very important strategic requirement;

(vi) Roads carrying high density of traffic over an adequate length; and

(vii) Roads which will enable seizure reduction in travel distance and achievement of substantial economies thereby.

However, the national Highways enroute may also cover tribal belt areas in any particular State or region. It is premature to indicate at this stage the road or roads which may be added to the National Highways network in near future which may also cover the tribal belt.

Collection of Toll Tax on National Highways

1898. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government collect toll tax on river bridges on various National Highways, including the one on National Highway No 8 Narmada river near Bharuch and Tapi River near Kholvad in Surat District constructed at present; if so, what is the number of such places in India;

(b) what are the details of time limit till when it would continue;

(c) what amount of money has been collected so far; and

(d) whether there is any liberalisation in the same for the local people or any kilometre limit to collect the same in the nearby two bridges, at the same route; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT). A) YPS. Sir. Fee Review