

on account of not having sufficient trans-shipment hubs. However, the objective is to reduce the transaction cost for Indian trade. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), a total of 276 projects have been identified including projects for deepening of channels and development of container terminals/berths in various Major Ports to be taken up for implementation over the period upto 2011-12. This is a part of an on-going process keeping in view the demands of the maritime trade.

Development of Ports in Kerala

2537. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) while the fast development of Kochi Port including the two areas Vallarpadam and Puduryppeen are welcome, what are the reasons for the same tempo missing in developing Colachal and Cuddalore ports;

(b) the bottlenecks in speeding up the development of these ports if there are any bottlenecks when they can be got over and the development can go at good speed; and

(c) would there be a time frame to complete the development of these ports entirely?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Development of ports is an on-going process keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. While developing the major ports including Cochin Port, the Central Government's endeavour is to encourage the process of development of the non-major ports, which are under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments including Colachal and Cuddalore ports in the State of Tamil Nadu.

NH from Delhi-Haridwar

†2538. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of construction work of four lane road on National Highway from Delhi to Haridwar

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(b) by when this work is expected to be completed;

(c) whether in view of heavy traffic on this National Highway Government feel that four-lane arrangement is adequate or it may be extended to six-lane in future; and

(d) the alternative arrangements being made by Government to avoid disorder in smooth flow of traffic during Kanwad yatra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The stretch of National Highway from Delhi to Meerut is already four-laned. Meerut to Muzaffarnagar stretch has already been awarded for four-laning and work is in progress. Bids for four-laning of National Highway-58 from Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar are to be invited once again by National Highways Authority of India on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis. It is premature to indicate the completion date of four-laning of National Highway-58, up to Haridwar at present.

(c) Keeping in view the heavy traffic, preparation of Detailed Project Report for six-laning of Delhi/Uttar Pradesh Border to Meerut section of National Highway-58 has been taken up under National Highway Development Project Phase-III-A.

(d) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Widening of National Highway-58 is proposed to facilitate traffic movement on it to Haridwar.

Widening of Highways

2539. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of approximately 66,000 km. of highways in India, only 6000 km. highways have four lanes;

(b) whether Government are of the view that given a high growth rate of interest Vehicular traffic, even four-laned highways will prove to be insufficient to handle traffic in near future; and