

Effect of change in chairmanship of NHAI on NHDP

2088. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to National Highway Development Project (NHDP) due to frequent change of Chairman of NHAI;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 7 projects could be awarded instead of originally planned 60 projects under Phase-III of NHDP;

(c) whether it is also a fact that concession terms have also been changed recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The progress under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) under implementation by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) as shown below indicates increasing trend in the length completed during the last three years.

Year	Completed length (in kms) of National Highways under NHDP
2006-07	636
2007-08	1614
2008-09	2148

(b) NHAI initiated bidding for 60 projects during 2008-09 which included 44 projects under NHDP Phase-III. 9 projects have been awarded and bids have been received in 9 projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for New NHs by Rajasthan Government

2089. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan Government has made proposals for announcement of new highways; and

(b) if so, the time by when announcement thereof will be made and names of these national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirement of resources for development of existing (National Highways in the Country) is huge as compared to availability of resources. Hence, at present, emphasis is being given

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. Therefore no time frame has been set for declaration of new National Highways including those in Rajasthan.

Realignment of Narol-Naroda section of NH-8

2090. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 regarding realignment of Narol-Naroda Section of National Highway No. 8; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No proposal for realignment of Narol - Naroda Section of NH-8 has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Irregularities in NHAI

2091. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Administrative Tribunal has imposed penalty on Ministry, Secretary and other Officials for unlawfully lingering on a case of deputation in NHAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government agrees that NHAI is rife with irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (b) The matter relates to deputation of an officer of the Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group 'A' of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). While initially approving the deputation of the said officer to the post of Chief General Manager (Technical) in NHAI, the fact regarding completion of cooling off requirement could not be brought to the notice of the Competent Authority. However, as the officer had not completed the cooling off requirement which was mandatory in terms of the Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT)'s instructions dated 29-2-2008, he was not relieved to join the NHAI. Aggrieved by this, he filed a petition in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The fact that the officer could not be relieved on account of not fulfilling the cooling off requirement had also been brought to the notice of the competent authority who agreed to cancel the deputation order which, however, could not be issued in view of the interim directions of the Tribunal for maintaining the status quo. The action has

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