

Progress of Vadodara-Mumbai expressway

2852. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what progress has been made regarding Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway;
- (b) what are the phases of the planning and implementation;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has frozen 300 m width land along the proposed alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway way back in 1991, if so, by when the land acquisition is likely to start; and
- (d) whether any time frame has been decided by his Ministry for starting of construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway has been finalized and consultant is appointed for feasibility study. Services for feasibility study have started in February, 2009 and likely to be completed within a period of one year. The various phases of the planning and implementation are: fixing the alignment, feasibility studies and facility planning, preparation of land plan schedule, acquisition of land, preparation of bidding document, appraisal and approval of the project, invitation of bids, award of concession, financial close, commencement of construction, completion of the expressway and start of commercial operation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Process of land acquisition is likely to be started by April 2010. The construction work is likely to be started by April, 2012.

Opening of sub-ways for pedestrians on G.T. road

2853. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several sub-ways constructed at the G.T. Road are lying closed for the past several years resulting in deaths of pedestrians while crossing the road;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not opening such sub-ways for pedestrians; and
- (c) the time by when all such sub-ways will be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) The subways at km 17.325, km 19.5, km 20.150, km 22 and km 61.5 on GT Road (NH-1) are closed due to construction work in progress. Subways at km 61.5 is targeted to be opened by 31.10.2009 and remaining subways are targeted to be opened by July, 2010.

Construction of new bridge on river Tista on NH 31

†2854. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is considering construction of a new bridge as an alternative to the old bridge over river Tista falling on National Highway No. 31, out of the budget for new bridge; and

(b) whether Government is aware that the bridge, on the river Tista on National Highway No. 31 that passes through Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Dooars and North East has become very old?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

Complaints received by NHAI regarding bad condition of roads under NHDP

2855. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints has been received by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) regarding bad condition of roads under National Highway Development Project (NHDP);

(b) the steps taken by NHAI for redressal of complaints;

(c) by when NHAI is going to resurface the existing highways of NHDP length in Gujarat; and

(d) the planning and time frame fixed by NHAI for resurfacing of roads damaged during the recent monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) A number of complaints have been received regarding bad condition of various roads under NHDP from time to time. It was mainly due to damage of roads during monsoon season and poor maintenance by some contractors. Concerted efforts are made by NHAI for carrying out urgent repair work, re-surfacing, termination of contract of non-performing contractors and re-awarding the work etc. Provisions have been made in the operation & maintenance contracts to ensure that road is made traffic worthy and serviceable. Flood damage repair is also undertaken as and when required.

(c) and (d) Repair and maintenance is an ongoing process and roads under NHDP in Gujarat are being maintained in traffic worthy condition. Resurfacing is done generally once in five years.

Construction of bypass on National Highways around Jaipur city

†2856. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy traffic on National Highways bypasses are required around Jaipur city;

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance will be given by the Government of India for construction of a bypass linking Ajmer-Jaipur road (NH-8) to Jaipur-Tonk road (NH-12); Tonk-Jaipur road (NH-12) to Jaipur-Agra road (NH-11) and Agra-Jaipur road (NH-11) to Jaipur-Delhi road (NH-8); and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.