

(c) whether all contracts for these corridors have been allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) There has been some delay in implementation of some projects under East West and North South Corridors due to various constraints. The major constraints in implementation of the projects are due to delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining clearances for forest/ environment and Road over Bridges, poor performance of some contractors and law & order problems in some States.

(c) Out of a total length of 7142 km of these corridors, contracts for a length of 732 km are yet to be awarded.

Roads in forest areas in Andhra Pradesh

561. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is proposing to take up roads in some districts of Andhra Pradesh where the roads in forest areas are in a bad condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new roads to be taken up in forest areas where the SC/ST people are living and are facing lot of difficulties due to improper infrastructure especially in the area of East Godavari, West Godavari, Vishakhapatnam and Khammam areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposal to upgrade "Sironcha -Mahadevpur - Tungaturthi - Erpedu - Renigunta" and "Kakinada - Dwarapudi - Rajahmundry - Kowur - Suryapeta" roads passing through forest areas of Andhra Pradesh as new National Highways (NHs). However, at present emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring new National Highways because the requirement of resources for development of existing National Highways is huge as compared to availability of resources. The entire NH network in the State of Andhra Pradesh including those passing through forest areas is being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within the available resources.

Completion of NH-5 from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur

562. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the proposed golden quadrilateral road and East-West and North-South corridor road have not yet been completed and whether it is due to shortage of fund or negligence of implementing agencies specially the reason of not completion of NH-5 from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur; and

(b) whether it is a fact that those multinational agency which are engaged for their above stated work are violating labour laws specially building and other construction workers (Regulation and

Employment Service Condition) Act 1996 and building and other construction Workers Welfare Cess Act 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) About 99% of golden quadrilateral work is completed and the work of East-West and North-South corridor is targeted for completion by December, 2010. However, there has been some slowdown in implementation due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, clearance from Railways for Road Over Bridges and poor performance of contractors.

Bhubaneswar to Berhampur is in the stretch of NH-5 between Ichhapuram and Balasore. The reason for non-completion of part of 4-laning is mainly non performance of contractors of three contract packages, namely, Ichhapuram-Ganjam, Ganjam-Sunakhala and Bhadrak-Balasore leading to termination of contracts. Thereafter, there was further delay in completion of balance works due to litigations. The balance works of Ichhapuram-Ganjam and Bhadrak-Balasore have already been re-awarded and Ganjam-Sunakhala stretch is under advance stage of finalisation for re-awarding.

(b) All agencies including multinational are required to abide by labour laws and other rules & regulations as stipulated in respective contract agreements.

Projects submitted by Punjab Government

563. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects submitted by the State Government of Punjab and others in the State pending for clearance as on 1st April, 2009 by his Ministry;

(b) the period since when each project is pending; and

(c) by when each is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) Nil, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Decline in export of Textiles to USA

564. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles especially to USA has decreased in the current year compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) and (b) As per the latest available provisional data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, India's textiles and clothing export to the US has indicated a