

NH projects in Bihar

4687. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing and proposed National Highway projects being carried out by the Central Government in the State of Bihar;

(b) the budgetary allocation for the same and the time schedule for their completion;

(c) the major hurdles in execution of these schemes; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Four-laning in about 206 km NH length on Golden Quadrilateral is nearing completion in the State of Bihar under NHDP. Four-laning in about 501 km NH length on East-West Corridor is in progress. In addition, 45 number of improvement works such as widening, strengthening, improvement of riding quality etc. on NHs with State PWD are also in progress. Besides, Government has already approved 4/6 laning of 1015 km of National Highways on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-III in the State of Bihar.

(b) There is no State-wise budgetary allocation for NHDP being executed by NHA. Work on Golden Quadrilateral and East-West Corridor are likely to be completed by July, 2007 and December, 2008 respectively. Budgetary allocation in 2007-08 for development of NHs with State PWD is Rs. 90 crore. Ongoing 45 number of works on NHs with State PWD are in different stage of progress and are targeted to be completed before May 2009. Entire NHDP Phase-III is targeted to be completed by December, 2013.

(c) During execution of projects under Golden Quadrilateral, certain problem associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, difficulties in environment and forest clearance, poor performance of contractors etc. were experienced.

(d) To ensure early completion of work, projects are reviewed at regular intervals, nodal officers have been appointed by the State Governments for resolving issues related to land acquisition and utility shifting, an officer of Railways has been posted to coordinate with Railways regarding

construction of ROBs, Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and inter-state issues and action has been taken against non-performing contractors.

Toll Policy for Highways

4688. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new Toll Policy for Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tolls are proposed to be charged on the basis of the construction cost of the roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Imported wheat received at Tuticorin Port

4689. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat imported last year from Australia was received at Tuticorin Port instead of Cochin Port Trust which are nearer and much before the Tuticorin Port Trust;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the reasons for static handling of cargo by Cochin Port Trust in spite of its being on the strategic location on trunk route?