

Road-rail linkage scheme for Gujarat

1134. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that road-rail linkage is extremely important for faster movement of traffic from the ports;
- (b) if so, whether the same consideration is equally applicable even in respect of the State of Gujarat;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to expedite the work of such projects in the State of Gujarat; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that road-rail linkage is extremely important for faster movement of traffic to and from the Ports All Major Ports of the country, including the one in Gujarat, are already well connected to the Railways and the National Highway network. Augmentation of road and rail connectivity to the Ports is an ongoing process depending on the traffic requirements. Progress of implementation of the ongoing projects for rail road connectivity to Major Ports is reviewed on a quarterly basis by a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission to ensure completion of all projects within the scheduled time.

Accidents on NHs

1135. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of fatal accidents that have taken place on the National Highways during the last three years ending 31st March, 2006, year-wise and the total number of persons who lost their lives as a result thereof, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that most of the accident victims on the National Highways succumbed to their injuries as prompt medical treatment could not be made available;
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to address this problem; and
- (d) if so, in what manner and by when that is likely to be in place?