

on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-IIIB. For this, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress. At present, no stretch of NH-17 is having four-lane carriageway.

Completion of Bidar-Srirangapatnam-Ooty N.H.

1745. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the Bidar-Srirangapatnam-Ooty National Highway project;
- (b) whether Government have any clear plan for this project; and
- (c) if so, the time limit and cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Two stretches of Bidar-Srirangapatnam-Ooty road namely Humanabad—Jewargi road and Mysore—Ooty road have been declared as National Highways. The Humanabad-Jewargi road has not been handed over by Karnataka Government. The Mysore-Ooty road in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are being developed and maintained as per the availability of fund and *inter-se* priority of works. There is no proposal to declare the remaining stretches of the road as a National Highway since emphasis is given for the development of existing National Highways.

Upgradation of Non-Major Ports

1746. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Governments have called for soft funding from Central Government for constructing minor ports;
- (b) if so, whether State Governments have also called for good rail and road connectivity to minor ports;
- (c) whether Government plan to prepare over 100 non-major ports in the country to handle large vessels and chalked out comprehensive strategy to enhance port capacity from 600 million tonnes to 2000 million tonnes by 2016;
- (d) whether Government are planning to upgrade non-major ports as one of the strategy; and