

- (ix) encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems
- (x) environmental quality management for all sectors

Green memorial at Dandi

1533. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has earmarked on yet another ambitious project to build a green memorial at Dandi to immortalize the salt march by Gandhiji in 1930;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in regard to develop the 376km Ahmedabad-Dandi route into 'heritage road and corridor' which has been announced in 2005;
- (c) the details of corpus fund allocated for this project and various activities to be undertaken as part of the project; and
- (d) whether the said project would be covered under Eco-friendly tourist destination or international map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched on 7th July, 2010 "Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (G.A.N.D.H.I)" with a cost estimate of Rs.25crores. The various component of the project includes, conservation of the Coast and coastal resources, mangrove afforestation and bio-shield, conservation of coastal features and wetlands; adopting nature-based development of resources, promoting non-convention. The project also covers community development, livelihood improvement; promoting eco-tourism.

(b) Development of Dandi Heritage route from Ahmedabad to Dandi is undertaken by Ministry of Surface Transport and National Highways Authority of India. The stretch has been declared as a National Highway.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Culture has earmarked Rs.20crores for the development of night halt places where Gandhiji and his associates stayed on the Sabarmati Dandi route. Further, Rs.501akhs out of an estimate of Rs.6.7crores has been released for development of a library at Dandi. Saifee villa is restored at Dandi by Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry of Tourism is supporting Government of Gujarat to develop Dandi destination as tourism project.