

To develop existing National Highways works amounting to nearly Rs. 256.00 crores have been sanctioned under Original Works and Improvement of Riding Quality Programme during the last three years. It has also been decided to four lane National Highway No. 4, 7 and 8 in Maharashtra under National Highway Development Programme.

National Highways in Gujarat

3208. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various National Highways declared by Gol are of 11068 KM length and the share of Gujarat is only 239 Kms;

(b) whether the length of National Highway in Gujarat is much lesser than it should be;

(c) if so, what should be the length of NH in 2002 in Gujarat and what it is as on date; and

(d) whether Government has scrutinised the proposal of Government of Gujarat submitted on 26th October, 1999 by the Chief Minister for upgrading various highways into National Highways giving priority to Coastal Highway of 765 Kms.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present the total length of National Highways in the country is 52010 Kms. out of which, Gujarat's share is 2241 Kms. National Highways are intended to serve the national interests as distinct from local interests and roads are declared as National Highways keeping in view the country as a whole, not on any regional or population basis. No targets had been fixed for expansion of National Highways in the country including the State of Gujarat.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, proposals are at initial stage and no details can be given.

Central Regulatory Authority for Minor Ports

3209. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to bring minor ports under a Central Regulatory Authority to regulate haphazard increase and growth of minor ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to regulate safety, environmental concerns and conservancy of Minor Ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The aspects regarding safety and conservancy of *f* Minor Ports are covered in the Indian Ports Act, 1908. Environmental aspect is taken care of as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry and the Ministry of Environment & Forests from time to time.

Ongoing National Highways Projects

† 3210. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment regarding the total length of National Highways;

(b) if so, what was the total length of National Highways in the country during the year 1999-2000;

(c) what was the width and length of each of those roads in respect of which the construction work had been completed; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.