

Laying of roads to connect religious and tourist sites

†876. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide economic assistance to State for laying of roads to connect important religious and tourist sites and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the road-wise details of quantum of economic assistance provided to various States including Madhya Pradesh during last three years;

(c) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought economic assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Union Government allocate funds for development of National Highways and such State roads (other than rural roads) as proposed by State Governments under the scheme of Central Road Fund (CRF). However, there is no exclusive scheme for providing funds for construction of roads to connect the religious and tourist places.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Encroachment on Sea bed

877. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an encroachment on Sea bed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps that Government is taking to remove the encroachment, the details thereof and the results thereof; and

(c) whether it is an obstruction in the smooth running of the ships or boats?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) There is no encroachment on Sea bed in any of the Major Ports except the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT). At VPT M/s Gangavaram Port Ltd. have constructed a permanent rock bund (Gryone) for creating a Catamarine landing facility within the territorial waters of VPT at Yarada Village Beach.

(b) VPT has issued a notice under section 46(2) of Major Port Trust Act to M/s Gangavaram Port Ltd., to remove the encroachment. Government of Andhra Pradesh, too, has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.