

Meeting regarding improvement of border roads

* 180. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had kept a meeting on 28 April, 2009 at New Delhi for improvement of Border Roads;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per decision taken in the said meeting, Government of Gujarat has forwarded proposal for improvement of 965 km. of Border Roads on 30 May, 2009; and

(c) if so, the present position of the proposal and by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Gujarat, in consultation with Border Security Force, had proposed construction of a road from Gadhuli to Santalpur for a length of about 255 km joining Kutch and Patan districts. This proposal with an estimated project cost of Rs. 550 crore has been approved by the Government on 18.11.2010. The implementation of the project will be done by Gujarat Roads and Buildings Department of State Government of Gujarat.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Nuclear plant at Mithi Virdi, Bhavnagar

†1241. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would reconsider the proposed Atomic Energy Power Plant in Mithi Virdi, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, in view of terrible accident caused by tsunami in nuclear power plants situated at a Japan's sea shore and taking lesson from which many developed countries have either closed their nuclear power projects, or are reconsidering to close them;

(b) whether Government has prepared any special plan to tackle the Japan like nuclear accident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The site selection is long a drawn activity and a site is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

accorded in principle approval by the Government after a detailed evaluation in accordance to the criteria laid down in Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) code on siting and recommendation thereof by the site selection committee of the Government. The Chhaya Mithi Viridi site in Gujarat has been evaluated for possible natural extreme events including Tsunami and found suitable. Further, the design and engineering features of the proposed plant and shore protection measures at site would ensure its capability to withstand the extreme natural events probable at the site.

(b) and (c) The safety of existing nuclear power reactors in operation and under construction in the country has been reviewed by specially constituted task forces for each technology in operation and reactors under construction in the context of Fukushima incident in Japan. These reviews have found that there are sufficient margins in designs of Indian nuclear power plants to withstand the extreme, natural events-earthquake and Tsunami. However, to further enhance safety, recommendations made by the task forces are being implemented after due process of approval. These *inter alia* include:—

- Automatic reactor shutdown on sensing seismic activity
- Augmentation of cooling water inventories and provisions for additional hook up arrangements through external sources and provision of mobile diesel driven pump sets.
- Increasing the duration of the availability of auxiliary power sources/battery operated devices for monitoring important parameters when the grid power is not available.
- Additional Shore protections measures at coastal stations.

Availability of thorium

1242. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is much availability of thorium in the country and the country has the potential to serve as feedstock for an ambitious nuclear power programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed be taken to discover thorium and to utilize this for our nuclear power programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.