

- (d) the response of Government to this demand based on statistics;
- (e) whether any response has been given to this representation; and
- (f) the directions given to passport office in Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) In order to meet growing demand of passports and to improve the efficiency of passport issuance system, the Government had appointed the National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), Hyderabad – a Government agency, as Consultant in 2006 to conduct an independent study of the system. The NISG, after a comprehensive study, submitted a detailed project report in February 2007 and recommended launch of Passport Seva Project (PSP) in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode, envisaging *inter alia* setting up of 77 Passport Seva Kendras across the country, based on the number of passport applications received from various districts under each passport office. The PSP was approved by the Union Cabinet in September, 2007.

(c) to (f) As per records of the Ministry, no representation seems to have been received from the Forum on Social & Human Rights to establish PSKs in the towns of Rajahmundry and Tadepalligudem. However, on the basis of an assessment made by the Passport Offices in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam and in order to provide additional access points for passport facilities, it has been decided to set up a mini-Passport Seva Kendra at Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District. In so far as Rajahmundry is concerned, it will continue to be served by the Passport Office, Visakhapatnam. The mini-PSKs are beyond the scope of PSP and are being set up wholly by the Ministry.

Proposal from Odisha for Conversion of Roads

*238. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Odisha has sent any proposal for conversion of State roads as new National Highways during the period from May, 2004 till February, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such proposals include Brahampur-Koraput and Madhapur-Raigada passing through Maoists infested districts of Koraput, Raigada, Gajpati and Kandhamal; and
- (d) if so, the nature of action taken by Government and priority, if any, accorded to the roads in the Maoist affected districts?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Odisha has submitted the following 14 proposals for declaration of new National Highways :

Sl. No.	Details of Roads / Stretches	Length in Kms
1.	Cuttack-Paradeep	82.00
2.	Sambalpur-Rourkella Road	162.50
3.	Jagatpur-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak Road	152.18
4.	Phulbanakhara-Charichhak-Gop-Konark-Puri	104.00
5.	Berhampur-Koraput Road	313.60
6.	Kaakhia-Jajpur-Ardi-Bhadrak Road	92.50
7.	Joshiapur-Rairangpur-Tiringi Road	40.49
8.	Karamdihi-Subdega-Talsora-Luhakera	37.00
9.	Rourkella-Rainbahal-Kanibahal Road	111.00
10.	1Kukurbhuka-Lanjiberna-Salang Bahal Road	31.00
11.	Jaleswar-Batagaon-Chandaneswar Road	35.60
12.	Dhenkanal-Naranpur Road	100.00
13.	Jeypore-Malkangiri-Moti Road	323.00
14.	Madhapur-Kerada-Sarangada-Baliguda-Tumidibandha- Durgapanga-Munigua-Momtelpeta-Rayagada	292.60
TOTAL		1877.47

(c) and (d) Both the proposals figure in the list of proposals submitted by State Government of Odisha. The expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highway is taken up from time to time depending upon, requirement of connectivity, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Growth of Aviation Sector

*239. SHRI RAJIV PRATAPRUDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a general decline in the growth of aviation sector;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is taking steps to restore health of the aviation sector;
- (d) whether Government has plans to reduce overhead cost in the aviation sector; and
- (e) if so, the details of action taken.