

preparation stage to the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the project cycle. Public hearings are conducted in consultation with the Local Government. In order to increase the public involvement, NHAI's account has also been opened on face book, where the people could their complaints, grievances and/or suggestions and get their answer and solutions quickly.

Linking of districts with National Highways

607. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of districts which are not connected by National Highways;
- (b) whether Government wants to link all districts with National Highways;
- (c) if so, the target thereof;
- (d) in how many years Government wants to connect all districts with National Highways;
- (e) the total length of roads covered by National Highways; and
- (f) how many kilometres Government intends to add in the existing network of National Highways in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) and (b) As per assessment made by this Ministry about 90 districts Headquarters are not connected with National Highways (NHs). There is no scheme to connect all districts Headquarters with NHs.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The total length of NH network is 79,743 km. Declaration of State Roads as new NHs is considered from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Approval of national highways in Maharashtra

608. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many projects in Maharashtra, submitted under the Annual Plan of National Highways are yet to be approved;