

in achieving financial close as well as shortage of skilled/semi-skilled manpower and economic slowdown. In order to expedite implementation of the Projects, Regional Offices have been set up by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) headed by Chief General Manager. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Manager who are involved in expediting forest/environmental clearances and monitor land acquisition matters as well as implementation of Projects. Special land acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. Chief Secretaries of State Governments have also been nominated as Nodal officers to expedite Highway Projects. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Headquarter as well as field units.

(e) Broadening of NH-17 between Mumbai and Goa is being carried out only in two sections. The work of four laning from Zarap to Patradevi is progressing satisfactorily. The work of four laning of Panvel - Indrapur section has slowed down due to reasons such as diversion of forest land, shifting of water supply pipe line, diversion of salt pan land, land acquisition and approval for rail over bridges, etc.

Extension of Panikoili Rajamunda NH in Odisha

1959. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the alternative arrangement for traffic, while the Angul Sukinda and Panikoili Lanunipada Rajamunda National Highway (NH) in Odisha are being made four lane and to whom the work has been awarded and details of the conditions; and

(b) whether there is any possibility of extending the Panikoili Rajamunda road upto Jajpur District headquarter along with a by pass road from Ragdichhak to Panikoili via Korai, to avoid the Vyasagar traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The stretch from Angul to Sukinda comprises of the stretches of NH-42 (Angul- Banarpal), NH 23 (Banarpal to Ballar Chak near Talcher) and NH200 (Ballarchak to Sukinda via Bhuban). Widening of Angul-Banarpal section is included in the project of 4 laning of Cuttack to Angul. The work has been awarded to M/s Ashoka Cuttack Angul Tollway Ltd. (M/s Ashoka Buildcon Ltd.). The stretch from Banarpal to Ballarchak section of NH 23 is presently 2 lane only and is maintained by state PWD. Ballarchak to

Bhuban is included in the list of projects to be widened to 2/4 lane under NHDP III. For 4 laning of Bhuban-Sukinda-Chandikhole Section, bids have been invited. Panikoili - Rimuli via Luhanipada has been awarded to M/s Sai Maatarim Tollway Ltd. (Gayatri Project Ltd.) and Rimuli-Rajamunda has been awarded to M/s Odisha Steel Expressway Ltd. (M/s MBL SREI Consortium). During construction, the traffic shall ply on the existing carriageway, till new two lane is constructed and after construction of new 2-lane, the traffic will be diverted on new carriageway till rehabilitation of the existing carriageway is completed.

There is no proposal to extend Panikoili - Rajamunda road upto Jajpur District alongwith bypass from Ragdichhak to Panikoili *via* Korai.

Works on Maduravoyal-Chennai Port Expressway

1960. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has restarted work on the Maduravoyal-Chennai Port Expressway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the expected loss, if any, to Government from delay in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A writ petition no. 5934 of 2013 has been filed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras praying to issue necessary directions to the Government of Tamil Nadu to allow NHAI to proceed with construction of the project.

(d) No loss can be assessed this stage.

Widening work between Salem and Coimbatore

1961. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: