

(d) whether NHAI would revert to the original alignment to avoid disrupting the lives and livelihood of the hundreds of Dalits families living in Bharatiyar Nagar?

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

(b) The alignment is not sought to be redesigned.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Reasons for returning the estimates of Gujarat**

3366. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has submitted Plans and Estimate amounting to ₹ 237.00 crore for approval under special project for Dandi Route as per decision taken in meeting with the Minister;

(b) if so, the reasons for returning the estimates without approval; and

(c) whether Government intends to consider these estimates during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The estimates amounting to ₹ 237.00 crore were received from the Government of Gujarat during 2012-13. The estimates were returned unapproved as they did not figure in the Annual Plan 2012-13. Some of the stretches included in the above proposals were already covered under the defect liability period of the previous improvement work carried out during 2009-10. However, works amounting to ₹ 60.52 crore were sanctioned during 2012-13 for Dandi Route.

(c) Consideration of the estimates received from the State Government would depend upon *inter-se* priority of the works and availability of funds.

**Work status on Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways**

3367. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work on Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressway;

(b) the precise reasons for abnormal delay in construction of the expressways; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to undertake construction of the projects and to ensure completion within three years as directed by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The project of Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) is a Haryana Government project and is not entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) project could not be awarded due to poor response of bidders even after extension of bid due dates. The EPE project is being re-structured to 4-lane Expressway in place of earlier 6-lane proposal and is to include NH-1 (Delhi-Panipat section). A technical consultant has already been appointed to study the EPE project and advise on an appropriate plan of action. After re-structuring, the revised project proposal shall be submitted for approval of the Government and bids process shall be initiated thereafter. Accordingly, it is not feasible/practical to fix any time line for implementation of EPE project, at this juncture.

**Funds allocation for maintenance work in Tamil Nadu**

3368. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of national highways in Tamil Nadu which have been taken up for maintenance work under the National Highways Development Programme for the last two years;

(b) how much work has been completed; and

(c) the total funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Sections of six National Highways under National Highways Development Programme aggregating to a length of 735.9 km. in Tamil Nadu have been taken up for maintenance during last two years by incurring an expenditure of Rs.51.53 crore.