

Ahmedabad-Dandi route as heritage route

2427. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad-Dandi route was declared as "Heritage Route" by Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2005 and that Government notified it subsequently as N.H.228;

(b) if so, why does Government now propose to realign this route on other State highway;

(c) whether it is a fact that his new proposed alignment at many location is as much as 25 km. away from the actual route travelled by Mahatma Gandhi during the Dandi March; and

(d) if so, whether this route, now have the same sanctity and historical importance of the Salt Satyagrah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Ahmedabad-Dandi route was declared as National Highways-228 in June, 2006. Since the functions of National Highway (NH) and the heritage route are distinct, it was decided to delink the development of NH-228 from development of heritage path and to plan improvement of the NH as per relevant parameters and existing procedures of this Ministry. Accordingly, this Ministry had finalized the alignment taking into account the existing geometries, minimum requirement of land acquisition for further geometric improvements and future prospect of development of the National Highway corridor. The alignment of NH-228 thus finalized was conveyed to the State Government on 23.11.2012 requesting for "No Objection" as it included State Highways and other arterial roads. The State Government did not support the proposed alignment. The State Government was again requested to review their stand and give their "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for the alignment as finalized by this Ministry or suggest alternate alignments that can be adopted and upgraded as per NH standards to meet future traffic requirements with minimum Land Acquisition etc.

Road over-bridges in important places

2428. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: