

Construction of bridges on Narmada river

81. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the six lane traffic between Vadodara and Surat, particularly commercial vehicles, have to cross Narmada river on a two lane bridge, resulting in long queues and hardship to road users; and

(b) if so, by when Government intends to complete construction of new two lane/ four lane bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) For Six lane traffic between Vadodara and Surat section of NH-8, there are 2 nos. of existing two-lane bridges over River Narmada. The traffic/commercial traffic upto 4-axles are allowed on both of the bridges. The commercial traffic with more than 4- axles are allowed through one bridge only. At present, there are no long queues and no undue hardships to road users on these two bridges.

(b) A new four-lane extra dosed bridge across Narmada River in this section of NH-8 is already under construction with scheduled completion by September 2016.

Upgradation of roads to national highways in Gujarat

82. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat has one of the longest coast lines, very large port traffic and is industrialized and hence its roads carry very heavy traffic but despite this none of the approximately 4340 km of roads passing through the State have been upgraded to National Highways between 2007-08 to 2009-10; and

(b) if so, whether Government intends to upgrade roads in the State to National Highways in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has already declared about 1411 kms of roads/stretches as new National Highways in the State of Gujarat during the last three years and the current year.

Irregularities in works undertaken by BRO

†83. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the case of slackness has come to light with regard to the work carried out by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Uttarakhand;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in view of this situation, the Ministry is contemplating on limiting the works to BRO or to withdraw them from it; and
- (d) if so, the States in which Government is contemplating such action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (d) To ensure that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) may concentrate for development and maintenance of high altitude with strategic importance roads in border areas, the process of transfer of some National Highways to State PWDs of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir has been initiated.

Irregularities in construction of highways

†84. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of flaws have come to the light with regard to the quality of highways constructed in the country and these flaws involve faulty tender process and the construction of roads with Bitumen and other substandard material which has resulted in their premature decay;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated annual loss suffered due to the roads constructed with substandard material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) The National Highways are constructed as per the IRC guidelines and Ministry's standard specifications for Roads and Bridge works by adopting e-tendering. Whenever there is a defect in the construction, the same is rectified by the contractor within the defects liability period.

Widening of bridges on national highways

85. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several narrow bridges exist on various National Highways in the country causing traffic jams and accidents;
- (b) if so, the number of such spots identified and the action taken to widen such bridges in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise particularly Telangana; and
- (c) the details of action taken/being taken to include such widening of bridges in the estimate itself in the beginning?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.