

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Highways having a length of 7457 kms. were declared as National Highways in February, 2004. There is no proposal for declaration of new National Highways due to financial constraint, at present.

Highway between Bhavani and Thoppur

1761. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to connect existing State Highway between Bhavani -hoppur via Mettur into National Highways considering strategic locations such as Mettur dam and power project located there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Highways having a length of 7457 kms. were declared as National Highways in February, 2004. There is no proposal for declaration of new National Highways due to financial constraint, at present.

Highway from Silchar to Sabroom

1762. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a four-lane National Highway parallel to rail line from silchar to Sabroom of Tripura to make the road economic and more useful;

(b) whether there is any proposal from the State Government of Tripura; and

(c) by when the construction may start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Presumably the question pertains to four-laning of existing Silchar-Sabroom road.

Silchar to Sabroom road consist of Silchar-Badarpur section of NH-53, Badarpur-Agartala and Agartala-Sabroom sections of NH-44. Four-laning is proposed only for Badarpur-Agartala section of NH-44 subject to viability of its four-laning as a BOT project.

(b) Government of Tripura have been demanding extension of East-West Corridor from Silchar to Sabroom. Since the alignment of East-West Corridor has been frozen, their demand could not be acceded to.

(c) Detailed Project Report for the widening of Badarpur-Agartala road is in progress. It is too early to indicate the date of commencement of its widening at this stage.

Trilateral Highway Project

1763. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether teams from New Delhi, Bangkok and Yangoon have met recently to discuss the financial and technical aspects of establishing the Trilateral Highways linking Manipur and Thailand through Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether during April, 2002, three nations had met to allow the construction of 1,300 km. Trilateral Highway;

(c) whether in 2003, the Task Force was set up to examine the various proposals, to link which would have financial impact on the region;

(d) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement the proposed establishment of Trilateral Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) The Foreign Ministers of India, Myanmar and Thailand met in April, 2002 at Yangoon (Myanmar) and agreed, *inter alia*, for construction of a highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar linking India, Myanmar and Thailand and also to establish Technical and Financial Task Forces. The last meeting of the Task Forces was held at