

Construction of highways

*210. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of highways, inched up to touch, 26 km. per day, during the April-June period of the current year, from 25 km. a year ago;

(b) whether it is a fact that the improved rate is far from the target of the pace of 45 km. per day, for the current fiscal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a total of 2345 km. of roads have been built in the first three months of the current financial year, as compared to 2260 km. in the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) Ministry has performed with achievement of 2345 km. as on 30th June with pace of 26 km. per day in construction/development of National Highways in first three months of the current financial year 2018-19 against the last year achievement of 2260 km. with 25 km. per day in the first three months of 2017-18. The pace of construction of roads picks up after the rainy season.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Establishment of Indian Coast Guard Academy in Kerala**

2081. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government had approved the proposal for establishment of an Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Academy at Azhikkal in Kerala in 2009, but the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regretted grant of Environment and CRZ clearance as the site earmarked is classified as CRZ-I(A), where no construction is permissible as per the CRZ notification 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has asked the State Government to identify and make available an alternate location along the Kerala coast for setting up the academy; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The Government has accorded 'Approval-in-Principle' (AIP) to the proposal for establishing Indian Coast Guard Academy (ICGA) at Azhikkal, Kerala. However, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has denied grant of Environment and CRZ clearances for setting-up Indian Coast Guard Academy at Azhikkal, Kerala, as the project site at Azhikkal falls under CRZ-1(A) area, wherein no construction is permissible as per the CRZ notification. Therefore, the process of exploring/ identifying suitable alternate land for Indian Coast Guard Academy has been initiated by Indian Coast Guard in other coastal states.

New Defence Production Policy

2082. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in the new Defence Production Policy and if so, the salient features of the proposed new policy and whether it mandates transfer of technology to all foreign players who are awarded supply contracts; and

(b) the effect of the new policy on Indian Ordnance factories and to what extent the role of private players in arms production would be encouraged under the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech 2018, Government has announced that it will bring out an industry friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Consequent to this, a draft Defence Production Policy 2018 has been prepared which provides a focused, structured and significant thrust to development of defence design and production capabilities in the country. The draft policy has been shared with all concerned stakeholders for their views before notification.

The salient features of the Draft Policy which is already placed in public domain for consultation with stakeholders is as follows:

- (i) Creation of a dynamic, robust and competitive defence and aerospace industry as an important part of the 'Make in India' initiative.