

Gauging and Capital Connectivity Rail Projects, Comprehensive Telecom Development Programme, Schemes for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution system etc.

Development of road network in NER

4327. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a comprehensive plan for developing road network connecting major towns and cities of North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the status of progress in respect of arterial road network in the region;

(c) whether any time-line has been fixed for completion of the works planned; and

(d) if so, the details in respect of each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had approved a Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) in September, 2005 for development and improvement of roads in North Eastern Region.

In addition, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have recently approved Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I, spanning over a period of five years (2017-18 to 2021-22), wherein roads of NER, aggregating to 3528 kms. have been included for improvement.

Facilitation of Arab Diplomats at Sapru House

4328. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government facilitated a gathering of Arab Diplomats at Sapru House, New Delhi housing its think-tank, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to observe the UN mandated International Day of Solidarity (November 29) with the Palestinian people;

(b) whether this symbolic gesture was re-enacted when the Indian Prime Minister recently flew into the Palestinian capital Ramallah; and

(c) whether India was the first non-Arab country to grant full diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representatives in New Delhi?