

Highways Linking Tripura with NE States

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

(a) the names of the National Highways in respect of which work has already been undertaken or is proposed to be undertaken shortly by the Central Government in the North-Eastern States;

(b) the names of those highways which link Tripura with other States in the North Eastern Region; and

(c) the status of these works, particularly the highway linking Tripura and Mizoram?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are 27 National Highways in the North Eastern Region. Development of National Highways is a continuous process. Improvement works are taken up on various National Highways depending upon traffic intensity, inter-se priority, over all availability of funds, and based on recommendations from State Public Works Department/Border Roads Organisation.

(b) National Highways 44 and 44A link Tripura with other States of North Eastern Region.

(c) National Highways 44 and 44A are being developed and maintained by Border Roads Organisation and State Public Works Department. 27 improvement works costing Rs. 186.00 crore are in progress on National Highway-44 at present. As regards National Highways 44A linking Tripura and Mizoram, 7 improvement works amounting to Rs. 34.83 crore are in progress and are targeted for completion by 2007.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, my first supplementary is that the hon. Minister has mentioned in his answer that, on National Highway No. 44, 27 improvement works are going on. My point is that National Highway No. 44 is the only road to enter or to go out of Tripura. But during the rainy season a portion of the road near Pathar Kandi gets submerged due to

waterlogging in the river Lungai. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether precautionary measures would be taken in advance so that during the coming rainy season waterlogging does not take place on the road.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: The hon. Member has asked about Rs. 186 crores. We are aware that National Highways—44 is the only lifeline connecting Tripura with the other North Eastern States and the rest of the country. Right from Meghalaya, we have spent a lot of money. In the last two or three years, we have spent about Rs. 35 crores. Currently, as I have said, in my reply, work worth Rs. 186 crores is going on in Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura. A very large quantum of work is going on because we understand the problem. As far as Pathar Kandi is concerned, the hon. Member knows about it. But I would like to inform the House that this damage had taken place because of the irrigation **bandh** which gets flooded, got damaged. All the water came on the two kilometres of road. This is happening for the last so many years. Every year, during the monsoon, this **bandh** would breach. Every year, the irrigation **bandh** of the State Government of Assam would flood the road and the road would get damaged. I personally spoke to various people about this. We had even offered to the State Government that we will repair this **bandh** from our funds. But they said, "No, we will not allow it. Only their Irrigation Department will do it." Eventually, we said, "You do it". Then they said, "We have no funds." Sir, I went to the hon. Governor there. Probably, the hon. Member might be aware that Rs. 5 crores were arranged from the North East Council. This work was sanctioned in January, 2003. We have now checked it up from the State Government. They said that 12 per cent of the work has already been done physically, although no money has been spent. They have told us that the completion date would be May, 2004. I am very much concerned about it. In the meantime I would like to inform the House that the Border Roads Organisation which is looking after this, has raised the level of the road. Fortunately, during this monsoon, there was no disruption on this road.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: My second supplementary...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no supplementary.

आपकी रोड की तो मरम्मत हो गई, अब आप क्या चाहते हैं?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: सर, यह दूसरा है। Sir, there is another road. There is National Highways-44A linking Tripura and Mizoram. The hon.

Minister has stated that the work is in progress. But actually it is not so. The progress of work is not satisfactory. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What are they going to do to expedite the work?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am quite aware of it. I am not happy with the state of National Highway No. 44A. The total length of this road in Tripura is 110 kilometres and in Mizoram, it is 130 kilometres. This portion of 130 kilometres is all right, except for 10 kilometres which is not being repaired by them for various reasons. Out of 110 kilometres in Tripura, only 58 kilometres of road has still not been taken up by the Border Road Organisation because of the insurgency problem. This portion of 58 kilometres is creating the problem. Because of the insurgency, neither the State Government nor the BRO are doing work on that portion. This is the problem. We are very much concerned about it. We are trying to do whatever is possible.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदय। नेशनल हाइवे अथोरिटी के एक ईमानदार और निष्ठावान आफीसर ने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में, बिहार में जो प्रोजेक्ट चल रहा है उसके ऊपर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी और चेयरमेन, नेशनल हाइवे अथोरिटी का ध्यान दिलाया था कि वहां पर भ्रष्टाचार चल रहा है, उनके विभाग में वहां क्या हो रहा है।

श्री सभापति: यह इस प्रश्न में नहीं आता है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: और, सर, यह भी कहा गया कि उन्हें सुरक्षा प्रदान की जाए।

श्री सभापति: गुप्ता जी, आप ऐसा मत करिए। यह इसमें नहीं आता।

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने, सरकार ने उसकी सुरक्षा के बजाय, उसकी सिविलियरिटी रखने के बजाय ... (व्यवधान) ... यह अखबार में निकाल दिया कि बिहार में लॉ एंड आर्डर की सिचुएशन खराब है। ... (व्यवधान) ... आपको कुछ सोचना चाहिए कि किस बेसिस पर प्राइम-मिनिस्टर को कोई चिट्ठी लिखता है और आप ऐसा कर रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: सर, जो विज्ञापन निकाल रहे हैं, इसको देखिए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति: यह मैंने देखा है। ... (व्यवधान) ... सुनिए, सुनिए। ... (व्यवधान) ... बैठिए।

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: सरकार अपने पैसे और पॉवर का दुरुपयोग कर रही है। इसमें इन्होंने सफाई दी है। ... (व्यवधान) ... कहते हैं, बिहार की लॉ एंड आर्डर की हालत खराब है। यह जो सरकार अपनी पॉवर और पैसे का दुरुपयोग कर रही है, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: इसमें भी आप राजनीति कर रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ... The House must deplore it.

श्री सभापति: गुप्ता जी, आप बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान) ... प्लीज, बैठिए।

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूड़ी: सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में है और जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है बिहार अभी तक नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में नहीं है। दूसरा, आपने विज्ञापन की बात की है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: यह अखबार आप देखिए, सर। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति: भंडारी, जी, बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान) ... बैठिए।

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूड़ी: जहां तक विज्ञापन का सवाल है, सभी माननीय सदस्यों को मालूम है कि अखबार में बहुत प्रकार की गलत बातें लिखी गई थीं, उसमें स्पष्टीकरण देने के लिए हमने यह प्रेस रिलीज दिया, जिसको पूरी तरह से नहीं छापा गया है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: आपने बिहार के लॉ एंड आर्डर के बारे में क्यों लिखा? आप सत्येन्द्र दुबे के बारे में खबर दे सकते थे, कोई हर्ज नहीं था। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, आपने प्वाइंट रेज़ कर दिया, डेट इज़ ऐनफ। ... (व्यवधान) ... श्री तारिणी कांत राय।

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूड़ी: आप मेरी बात सुनेंगे तो आपकी समझ में आएगा। ... (व्यवधान) ...

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: ठीक है, आप अपना स्पष्टीकरण दीजिए सत्येन्द्र दुबे के बारे में, लेकिन बिहार के लॉ एंड आर्डर के बारे में छापने का अधिकार आपको किसने दिया? ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Why did you involve the Bihar Government? (Interruptions)

श्री सभापति: भंडारी जी, बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान) ... गुप्ता जी, बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: बहुत* हो गई है, छोड़िए इसको। ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री सभापति: गुप्ता जी, बैठिए, बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान) ... गुप्ता जी, कोई* नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान) ... यह सब मैंने देख लिया है, बैठ जाइए। श्री तारिणी कांत राय। ... (व्यवधान) ...

*Expunged, as ordered by the Chair

श्री मनमोहन सामल: यह क्या* है? ... (व्यवधान)...

प्रो० रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा: ये स्वयं* करके यहां बातें उठा रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए, आप बैठ जाइए, कोई* नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए, बैठिए।* की परिभाषा आज तक तो नहीं हुई। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: मंत्री जी को* करना, यह कहना सही बात है क्या? ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: मैं* को पार्लियामेंट की प्रोसीडिंग, से निकालता हूं। आप बैठिए। ... (व्यवधान)... कोई* नहीं करेगा।

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: आज बिहार सरकार को बदनाम किया गया है, कल को आपको भी किया जा सकता है।

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: माननीय सभापति जी, *शब्द ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप किसकी* कर रहे हैं, *शब्द ही नहीं रहा? आप बैठिए, बैठ जाइए। Don't disturb.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Sir, there is a proposal for the East-West Corridor from Assam to Gujarat. This proposed corridor will not pass through some important districts of West Bengal like Cooch Behar and the districts of lower Assam like Dhubri, Bongaigon, etc., and also the State of Tripura. My question is: Is it possible to connect Tripura with this corridor road, so also the important districts of lower Assam, namely, Dhubri and Bongaigon, and the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, it is agreed that the NHDP does not pass through a number of States. The NHDP alignment had been finalised in 1999, and it is not possible to change it. However, considering that there are many areas which needed four-laning, the hon. Prime Minister announced on 15th August that 17 State capitals, which have not been connected by the four-lane roads, would also be connected. That is one aspect. Tripura will come into that when the capitals will get connected with the East-West Corridor. Similarly, at many other places where four-laning is not available but is required, these various roads will be included under the plan of constructing 10,000 kms. of four-lane roads.

*Expunged, as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has taken a decision to convert Dhodar Ali Road of Assam into a national highway after getting various memoranda. Can it be made as the N.H. No. 28, as already 27 National Highways are there and you can add one more?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I will be very happy to keep on adding the State Highways as National Highways, but just as a matter of information, we have today the demand pending for conversion of about 42,000 kms. of State Highways into National Highways. During the first 50 years of independence, we added about 13,000 kms., but in the last four or five years, we have added another about 24,000 kms. Therefore, at the moment, it is not possible to take up conversion of State Highways into National Highways because of financial reasons and to take up the work of conversion on one highway, we need Rs. 1.25 crores per year. At the moment, because of financial constraints, we are not in a position to do this. But, as and when this thing is done, I am sure, all priority areas will be included.

Procurement of rice from Orissa

*243. **SHRI SURENDRA LATH:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to procure rice from various states;

(b) the target of procurement set for the year 2003-04, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of rice proposed to be procured from Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise estimates for the procurement of rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2003-04 are given in the Statement-I (See below)