

(b) The allocation and expenditure on National Highways in the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
1999-2000	99.16	77.47
2000-2001	136.26	116.81
2001-2002	158.73	157.33

(c) NH-52B, linking NH-37 at km. 580.79 and NH-52 at km. 307.83, forms the approaches of the Bogibeel bridge. The final location survey has been completed for the construction of the approaches.

(d) The BRO and State PWD are already in the process of restoration of damages on NH-52 and NH-37 respectively. The work is likely to be completed within the current financial year.

National Highway Status to State Roads

1019. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 316 requests from various States seeking grant of National Highway status for their State roads are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for reviewing the requests during the Tenth Plan period; and

(d) by when, sanction are likely to be accorded to the Highways of inter-state importance?

THE MINJSTER OF. STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) to (d) All 316 proposals received from the State Governments have been returned to them in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very

[28 November, 2002]

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limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Incidents of robbery in Mumbai-Pune Expressway

1020. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of incidents involving highway robbery/ambush on Mumbai-Pune Expressway;

(b) whether the expressway users pay Rs. 100/- per trip to use this stretch and if so whether adequate security surveillance measures are provided for by the NHAI on this important highway; and

(c) whether such measures have been included in the packages for Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South Corridor projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) and (b) Mumbai-Pune Expressway is being operated by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) under the State Government of Maharashtra. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is not involved in its operation. As per the information made available by MSRDC some incidents of highway robbery have been reported and additional security measures have been provided on the Expressway.

(c) Provision of highway patrolling has been made by NHAI in the operation and maintenance contract for the aggregate length of 1070 kms of completed 4-laned sections under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

National Highways in NER

1021. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways in the North Eastern Region as on the 31 st October, 2002, District-wise; and