

[10 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) what is the present stage of consideration of the proposal and by when it would be approved and funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request for additional allocation of Rs. 35.1 crores under NH(O) works during 2002-03 was received from the State PWD, Karnataka on 8-1 -2003.

(c) Keeping in view availability of funds an additional allocation of Rs. 10.40 crores was made available for Karnataka.

Trans Asian Highway Network

3078. SHRI MAJOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had some time back visualised a major Highway Project-Trans Asian Network linking Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a reference thereto was briefly made by the Prime Minister in the ASEAN meet held last year;

(c) whether any progress has since been made in relation thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The route connecting Indo/Pakistan Border-Delhi-Kolkata—Indo/Bangladesh Border-Dhaka-Indo/Bangladesh Border-Shillong-Imphal-Moreh has been conceptualised as a part of the Asian Highway connecting India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand among other countries of Asia.

(c) to (e) No specific remark had been made by the Prime Minister in the ASEAN meet held last year. However, in general terms the Prime Minister did call for cooperation for the upgrading and strengthening of physical linkages, *inter-alia* through optimizing