

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:975

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has signed a historical international agreement for completing 140,000 km. Asian highway network;
- (b) if so, whether apart from India, countries such as Pakistan, China, South Korea and Vietnam signed the agreement at the ministerial segment of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific;
- (c) if so, the details of the said agreement alongwith the benefits thereof; and
- (d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b) During the 60th Annual Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), held in April, 2004, India, along with 25 other countries including Pakistan, China, Republic of Korea and Vietnam, has signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network. The total length of Network is more than 1,40,000 km.

(c) The objectives of the Inter-Governmental Agreement are formalization of the Asian Highway Network, coordinated development of Asian Highways, review mechanism for the routes, design standards and signs. The Agreement includes, inter-alia, the Asian Highway routes, classification and design standards, signages of the routes, procedure for amendment of text and annexures, denunciation and cessation of validity of the agreement, settlement of disputes etc. This agreement will lead to coordinated development of Asian Highway routes within the country to a minimum specified standard, which will in turn develop international tourism, trade, transport and commerce.

(d) No specific time frame for completion of works has been stipulated in the Agreement.