GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1064
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
ROAD CONNECTIVITY WITH NEPAL, BHUTAN AND BANGLADESH
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

(a) whether the Government has approved road connecting project to connect India with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh as reported in 'Hindustan' dated 4 January, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some changes has been made in the route as suggested by United Nations Area and Pacific Economic & Social Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) the present status and the benefits likely to accrue as a result of the said project?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) At present, the Asian Highway (AH) route AH-2 near Siliguri passes through Banglabandha—Siliguri—Kakarbhitta. Further AH-48 presently extends from Thimphu—Phuent sholing—Border of India. The Government has approved in February 2008 the proposal for proposing to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations (UNESCAP) amendments to the above mentioned AH routes. The amendment to AH-2 involves inclusion of 'Phulbari' between the route passing through Banglabandha and Siliguri and defining the route of AH-2 at this location as "…. Banglabandha—Phulbari—Siliguri—Kakarbhitta…..". The other amendment includes providing link to Bhutan by extending route of AH-48 from "Thimphu—Phuentsholing—Jaigaon—Hasimara—Jalpaiguri—Phulbari", and consequently connect with AH-2 at Phulbari in India.

This is envisaged to be of help in improving the international travel for trade and tourism among India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. This is also envisaged at providing connectivity to the Capital of Bhutan, i.e. Thimphu, with India through the Asian Highway route.