

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1844
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
ROAD CONNECTIVITY
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether poor road connectivity is one of the reasons for the slow economic development of the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to improve road connectivity in the country;
- (c) the present status of projects of road connectivity in the country alongwith the time by which the pending projects of road connectivity are likely to be completed, State-wise;
- (d) whether proposals have been received from various State Governments for construction of two lane road in the hilly areas/States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c) Good and efficient road infrastructure is an essential pre-requisite for the socio-economic development of the country. This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) and the roads other than NHs are responsibility of the concerned State Governments, etc. Apart from this, the Ministry also allocates funds to the States for development of State Roads under the Central Road Fund (CRF) and Economic Importance (EI) & Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) schemes.

The development of NHs is a continuous process and the works are, accordingly, taken up based on the traffic density, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The Government has taken major initiatives for development of NHs under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The entire programme, besides upgradation of about 47,000 km length of National Highways under its various phases, also involves construction of about 1,000 km length of Expressways under Phase-VI. Other approved major programmes include development of about 6,418 km length of roads (3,513 km length of NHs and 2,905 km length of State roads and other roads) primarily to 2-lane NH standards under Phase A of the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in the North East (SARDP-NE) including Arunachal Pradesh Package, development of about 5,477 km length of roads (1,126 km length of NHs and 4,351 km length of State roads) primarily to 2-lane NH standards under Special Programme for development of roads in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. The projects under these programmes are in various stages of progress and all these programmes are expected to be completed in phases by March, 2017.

Besides these programmes, development works on NHs including widening of NHs are also taken up under National Highway (Original) [NH(O)] under Annual Plan.

(d) and (e) This Ministry envisages to convert all single / intermediate lane NHs into two lane NHs, including such NHs in the hilly areas, in the next five year plan (2012-17) subject to finalization of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, availability of funds and also keeping in view inter-se priority of other required development works under Annual Plan through budgetary allocations including Special Projects likely to be taken up on Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) mode, proposed loan assistance from World Bank and other programmes such as NHDP -Phase IVA, Phase-A of SARDP-NE and Arunachal Pradesh Package, road connectivity programme for LWE affected areas, etc.