

(iv) Need to declare Kampearganj-Mehdawal Basti Toda road in Basti district of UP as National Highway

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad): Madam, the Kampearganj-Mehdawal-Basti road in Basti district has totally been damaged due to the terrible floods during the last monsoon. As a result of it, the traffic on this road has totally stopped. Besides damage to the road, the wooden bridges have also washed away. This road connects Lumbini, Sonauli, Naulanwan and Anandnagar with Toda via Kampearganj and Mehawal and is a very important route from commercial point of view. Due to the damaged road, one has to go from Kampearganj to Gorakhpur via Khalilabad. Now, instead of covering a distance of 15 kilometres, the people have to cover a distance of 115 kilometres, which is resulting in unnecessary wastage of time as well as money. No road has been declared as a National Highway in the Basti district during the last few years.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that Kampearganj Mehawal Basti Toda road be declared as a National Highway and funds should be allocated for the reconstruction of the road and bridges.

(v) Need for Central assistance for construction of railway overbridges at Fekri and Nashirabad on National Highway No. 6 in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra

DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE (Jalgaon): Madam, nearly 200 kilometres

of National Highway No. 6 passes through Jalgaon district. This road is very busy. There are two railway crossings on this National Highway in Jalgaon district, which usually remain closed for 25 to 35 minutes for railway traffic. In view of the heavy traffic on this road, it is necessary to construct railway overbridges at Nashirabad and Fekri railway crossings.

So, I would request the Central Government to provide financial assistance to the State Government for construction of railway overbridges at Fekri and Nashirabad on National Highway No. 6 in Jalgaon district.

(vi) Need to shift railway diesel shed at Erode to Shornoor in Palakkad Division in Kerala

[*English*]

SHRI S. SIVARAMAN (Ottapalam): Madam, Shornoor junction in Palakkad Division is one of the largest junctions in Kerala with ample scope for development. There was a major steam loco shed and repair shop at Shornoor but now it has been closed down on account of dieselisation. The entire shed, track machinery and the various shops are now lying idle. Some time back, a wagon repair shop was opened there but not even twenty per cent of the installed capacity is being utilised. Now the electrification of the Eroda-Cochin line is under consideration. When this project is over, the existing diesel shed at Erode will become redundant. This diesel shed could be shifted to Shornoor by opening an electric car shed at Erode. This will bring back the prestigious position of Shornoor and also provide employment to hundreds of educated youths.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways to take necessary steps to start it as early as possible.