

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:923
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LEH IN J& K
Murmu Shri Rupchand;Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to build an alternative route from Manali to Leh in Jammu & Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the length of the new route and its likely cost;
- (d) the benefits that would accrue after construction of this alternate route;
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be completed;
- (f) whether the Srinagar-Leh NH-1A route will be closed after the alternative new route; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes Sir, the Government has decided to construct an alternate route viz Manali-Darcha-Shinkunla-Padma-Nimu-Leh, Which would pass through the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.
- (b) The alternate route would starts from Darcha (located at km 144 on Manali –Leh road) and pass through Shinkunla and Padam to join Nimu (on Srinagar –Leh road) including construction of a tunnel by-passing Rohtang pass.
- (c) Total length of the route via Rohtang tunnel and Darcha-Padam-Nimu road would be 427 km from Manali to Leh and likely cost is Rs. 1355.82 crores.
- (d) The route would by-pass three high mountain passes on existing route namely Baralacha, Lachungla & Taglangla. This would provide an all weather access to Leh with minimum snow clearance efforts.
The alternate route would reduce the distance about 40-45 kms, which will save travel time and operational cost. The route would be away from line of control and hence this is safer route.
- (e) Target completion date of the road is March 2012 except the tunnel, which will be completed in 2014.
- (f)&(g) No Sir, Srinagar-Leh route would continue to be used.