

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:930

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005

BLOCKADE AT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS LINKING SIKKIM WITH DARJEELING

Masood Shri Rasheed

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

- (a) whether the blockade of the National Highway linking Sikkim with Darjeeling is adversely affecting tourism;
- (b) if so, the administrative and remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard; (
- (c) whether the Government of Sikkim has submitted a proposal to the Union Government regarding construction of an alternative road so as to avoid Darjeeling-Sikkim highway; and
- (d) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : The National Highway No.31-A, linking Sikkim via Teesta-Sevoke sometimes gets blocked which affects tourism. The proposal for construction of an alternative highway between Melli and Rangpo (on Sikkim side) has been included in the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in the North -Eastern Region (SARDP-NE).

(c) & (d) : As mentioned above, the proposal for construction of an alternative highway from Melli to Rangpo in Sikkim is included in SARDP-NE. The Government has given approval for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) on 22.9.2005. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been asked to undertake preparation of DPR. It is too early to indicate time frame for implementation.