

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1230
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
ROAD CONNECTIVITY IN HIMALAYAN BELT
Rijju Shri Kiren

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy for road connectivity in the Himalayan Belt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific routes that have been identified in Arunachal Pradesh for the road connectivity; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. As per the policy of this Ministry, roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions are, inter-alia, considered while declaration of new National Highways. There is no specific policy for road connectivity in the Himalayan Belt. However, the Government has taken up separate programmes such as the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE), Prime Minister's package for road development in Jammu & Kashmir, and development of border area roads along the Indo-China Border for development of the roads in these regions including roads in Himalayan Belt.

The Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern region

(SARDP-NE) includes upgrading/improvement of about 3228km of National Highways, 4388km of State roads, General staff roads and roads of strategic importance. The Government has approved SARDP-NE Phase-A for development of 1110 km of National Highways and 200 km of State Roads and General Staff Roads. Prime Minister's Package for road development in Jammu & Kashmir includes upgradation/improvement of about 795 km length of National Highways and 297 km length of state roads. It has been decided to undertake phase wise construction of 27 road links having a total length of about 608 km in the border area along the Indo-China border in the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Utrakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The improvement of about 36 km length of the State Road from Lumla to Tashigong via Dudunghar (Indo-Bhutan road) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh is included in the SARDP-NE Phase A, with target for completion by year 2009. As a part of development of road links in the border area along Indo-China Border, five routes are included in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, namely road connectivities between

(i) Rama Sapper-Mago-Chuna,

(ii) Zimithang-Survasamba-Khinzemane,

(iii) Shungatsar-Kharsang La,

(iv) Yarlung-Lamang and

(v) Bona to Gelling, having a length of about 130 km, and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been assigned with the works of construction of these roads with target for completion by the year 2012-2013.