

Government has remained engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that fishermen on both sides can continue pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. In this context talks between the fishermen associations of India and Sri Lanka were held on 27 January 2014 in Chennai; officials from Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka and State Government of Tamil Nadu were present as observers. The Fishermen Associations from both sides have agreed to put into effect practical arrangements which would be further discussed at the next round of talks between the Associations to be held in Sri Lanka shortly.

Target for construction of NHs during the last three years

*393. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has fixed any target for the construction of National Highways during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the targets achieved during the last three years;

(c) whether there has been an inordinate delay in implementing the projects for construction of National Highways; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The targeted and completed length (in Km.) of Highways under various schemes during the last three years are as under:-

Year	NHDP		Non-NHDP		SARDP-NE		LWE		Total	
	Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.	Tar.	Ach.
2010-11	2500	1784	2468	2258	366	146	200	251	5534	4439
2011-12	2500	2248	2254	1531	270	150	800	1084	5824	5013
2012-13	3000	2939	1592	1484	300	260	1200	1049	6092	5732

NHDP : National Highways Development Project.

SARDP-NE : Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East Region.

LWE : Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas.

There was marginal shortfall in achieving targets due to problems such as land acquisition, shifting of utilities, environmental and forest clearance, approval for rail over bridges, law and order problem as well as shortage of skilled/semi-skilled manpower, poor performance of contractors and economic slowdown. In addition, some of the projects are not able to take off due to non-achievement of financial closure and non-declaration of appointed date.

In order to expedite implementation of the projects, Regional Offices have been set up by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) headed by Chief General Manager with delegated powers. Special land acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. Chief Secretaries of State Government have also been nominated as Nodal officers to expedite pre-construction activities. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Headquarter as well as field units. Recently, the issues of delinking environmental clearance from forest clearance and exempting linear stretches from the requirement of NOC from Gram Sabha have been resolved. Reserve Bank of India has given dispensation to treat the debt due to lenders, to the extent assured by Project Authorities in terms of concession agreement, as secured loan. Disinvestment of 100% equity to other willing buyers has been allowed after completion of the construction and also substitution of concessionaire allowed after achievement of financial closure to salvage the languishing projects. The NHAI has also constituted Negotiation/Reconciliation Settlement Committees and also High Level Expert Settlement Advisory Committee to settle the claims/disputes.

Accommodation to Padma Awardees in Delhi

*394. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased state :

(a) whether Government has a policy of allotting Government accommodation of Padma Awardees in Delhi and outside, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of such Padma Awardees who have been given accommodation in Delhi, location-wise details thereof;