

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2735
ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2022**

VARANASI-KOLKATA EXPRESSWAY

2735. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the detail and the present status of Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway project;**
- (b) whether the construction work on the said Expressway stretch in West Bengal has been started and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestions to modify the design to meet the demand of the villagers to provide access to the expressway in Howrah and Hooghly district and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and**
- (d) the progress of the construction of NH-81 connecting West Bengal and Bihar?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) including preconstruction activities for Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Greenfield Six-lane Highway has been taken up. Bids for about 150 km length have also been invited in the State of Utter Pradesh and Bihar.**
- (b) No, Sir**
- (c) The alignment of Varanasi-Kolkata in the State of West Bengal including connectivity to Howrah and Hooghly is under discussion with Government of West Bengal.**
- (d) National Highway (NH) - 81 (New NH - 31) starts from Gazole (km 0) and ends near the eastern approach of Kalindi bridge (West Bengal - Bihar Border) in West Bengal with a total length of 59.697 km. The stretch from km 0 (Gazole) to km 19.205 (Samsi) has already been developed to 2-Lane with paved shoulders configuration. The work of widening the stretch from km 19.205**

(Samsi) to km 46.55 (Harischandrapur) to 2-Lane with paved shoulders configuration including construction of 3 greenfield bypasses (Samsi, chanchal, Harischandpur) has been taken up and the physical progress is 60%. The work of widening the balance stretch (greenfield construction) from km 46.55 (Harischandrapur) to km 59.697 [eastern approach of Kalindi bridge (West Bengal - Bihar Border)] to 2-Lane with paved shoulders configuration has been taken up and the physical progress is 61%.
