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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2751

ANSWERED ON: 19.03.2008

**CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN AFGHANISTAN**

MILIND MURLI DEORA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of benefits that are likely to accrue to India as a result of India's assistance for upgradation/construction of Roads in Afghanistan;
- (b) whether there has been any objection from any quarter against the project in view of its security sensitive nature; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)**

(a) The Government of India is undertaking the upgradation/construction of a 215 Km road from Delaram to Zaranj in Nimroz Province in Afghanistan. The road will provide connectivity for land-locked Afghanistan to the sea via Iran, and is important for development of infrastructure and promotion of trade in Afghanistan and a considerable reduction of the motorable distance through Iran for Indian goods to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

(b) &(c) There has not been any objection from any quarter against the project, although Taliban insurgents opposing international reconstruction efforts have attacked project sites and personnel on numerous occasions.