

OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Gujarat Vidhansabha, Gandhinagar.

Press Note

1st May, 2012

On the Foundation Day of Gujarat, UPA Government presented it Rs 550 Crore Projects of a four lane bridge and six lane approach road near Bharuch. This will solve the grave problem of traffic jam on Narmada Bridge on National Highway number 8 near Bharuch. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri C P Joshi laid the foundation of the project today. This is result of efforts of Rajya Sabha member Shri Ahmed Patel to solve the old problem.

Speaking on the occasion, Joshi said that four Lane Bridge and six Lane Approach road will be constructed by the centre at a cost of Rs 509.29 crore. He said that the old bridge on the river Narmada was under the control of the State government and it was in dilapidated condition. As a special case, he said, Central government decided to give assistance of Rs 40.50 crore for the repair of this bridge.

He said that as per a formula worked out by the Finance Commission, states get central fund as per their share of revenue. However, Shri Joshi said, UPA government at the centre was giving additional funds for new schemes. This is irrespective of which party has government in the state. Gujarat is getting four to five times what it was getting during the NDA rule. He said that never in the past so many high way projects were sanctioned for Gujarat. He confirmed the statement of Leader of Opposition Shaktisinh Gohil that the Central government had approved in principle a project for coastal highways for Saurashtra and work on it will begin soon.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Tushar Chaudhary said that the Central government had kept a staff of 40 to manage traffic on the bridge even as this was not part of its job. Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways Shri Bharat Solanki said that Gujarat was leading in development for ages. Gujarat government should focus on balanced development of people, he said. Guidance and influence of Shri Ahmed Patel has remained very crucial in getting Central assistance for the development of Gujarat.

Giving an idea of the work done for all round development of people in Gujarat in past, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Mines Shri Dinsha Patel said that the state government should work for all round development of all without indulging in petty party politics. To ensure that public money was used judiciously, the function was simple. To maintain standard parliamentary practice even BJP leaders were invited and given place on the dais in a dignified manner.

Leader of Opposition Gohil made a special mention of the dignified representation to all political leaders in the government by the Union Minister Shri Joshi and said that a government programme should not have political bias. He said that main inspiration behind the foundation of Gujarat in May 1960, Ravishankar Maharaj was very clear about judicious use of every paisa. He said that real celebration of Foundation Day was celebration by all in a simple manner. This was the view of Ravishankar Maharaj.

Shri Ahmed Patel, who was asked to speak on the occasion, said that what he did was his duty for people of Bharuch and people of Gujarat and there was nothing for him to take credit. State Road and Building Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel who was present at the function welcomed the central initiative.

Leader of Opposition Gohil expressed special thanks to Shri Ahmed Patel for his pro active approach.

To,
The Editor,

Hon'ble Leader of Opposition has requested to kindly publish this press note in your esteemed newspaper.

(J. J. Rasanja)
Personal Assistant