



MANISH TEWARI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT – SRI ANANDPUR SAHIB (PUNJAB)
FORMER UNION MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, GOVT. OF INDIA
NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON – INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)
ADVOCATE – SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

6th September, 2019

Respected Sh. Narendra Modi Ji,

I would like to draw your kind attention towards the fact that 2019 is the 550th years of the founder of the sikh faith, Guru Nanak Ji.

The two most revered places in the Sikh faith are Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar and Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib in Sri Anandpur Sahib which falls in my Parliamentary Constituency. Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib is the holy place where the 10th Guru Gobind Singh Ji baptized the “*Khalsa*” on 13th April, 1699 on the occasion of Baisakhi.

There is a road that connects these two holy places i.e., Amritsar and Sri Anandpur Sahib. There has been consistent demand of large section of the people who visit both these holy places as part of their religious pilgrimages that the road from Banga to Sri Anandpur Sahib should be four-laned and upgraded. The road is in a terrible condition and many accidents take place on a regular basis. Before the Parliament elections, the Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari laid down the foundation stone for upgrading this road and four-lining it from Banga to Sri Anandpur Sahib and onwards to Naina Devi on 25th February, 2019, by declaring it as a National Highway. (Copy of PIB Press Release is attached herewith).

After the Parliament elections, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh, PWD Minister of Punjab, Sh. Vijay Inder Singla and I met Shri Nitin Gadkari who expressed his inability to fulfill the commitment that he had made before the Parliament elections even though the foundation stone was personally laid by him.

The plea of the Road Transport & Highways Minister is that the road has only been declared as “In principle National Highway” and not a “National Highway”. (Copy of the Answer to my unstarred questions enclosed herewith). This word play is sophistry and does not cut ice with the people who believe that when government undertakes a project by laying the foundation stone at the level of a Minister, it must be completed at the earliest.

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I met the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways once again separately during the Parliament session and emphasized the importance of this road in the context of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Ji. He expressed his inability to do anything and told me that I should take up this issue with Your Goodself as there is some conceptual objection with regard to roads which have been declared as "In principle National Highway" by the Prime Ministers' Office or the Ministry of Finance.

Given the fact that this road has a historical and religious significance in this particular year, I would be obliged if you could kindly request the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari to fulfil the commitment he has made to the people of Punjab even if it involves making an exception to whatever is the impasse between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Surface Transport.

I would not have written to you if this issue would not have been emotive and important to the people of Punjab.

I do hope that you would intervene in the matter.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,



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Encl.: PIB Press Release and copy of letters
addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Surface and Transport.
Replies to unstarred questions in Parliament.

To:

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Hon'ble Prime Minister,
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