

6 AP state highways to be upgraded to National Highways

Six of the state highways that are managed by the cash-strapped roads and buildings department are to be upgraded to national highways, thanks to the clearance from the Central government.

R and B officials are heaving a sigh of relief as the maintenance of these state highways will be handed over to the ministry of road transport and highways. The state government, during Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's regime in 2006, had proposed twentythree state highways to be upgraded to national highways, which would be funded by the Central government.

The state government's efforts to include 6,671 km of state highways under the national scheme are bearing fruit now. Sources in the R and B department said around 3000 km of roads will be converted to national highways

With the Planning Commission giving its approval to the proposal, the Centre has shortlisted six roads in the state, based on the road density. They include:

- ❖ Hyderabad to Nandyal via Srisailem, Dornala and Atmakur, of 354 km;*
- ❖ Nizampatnam to Kodur via Repalle, Tenali, Guntur, Vinukonda, Thokapalli, Nandyal, Banaganpalli, Owk, Thadapatiri and Dharmavaram, 625km;*
- ❖ Gudur to Madakasira via Rapur, Rajampet, Rayachoti, Kadiri and Hindupur, 356 km;*
- ❖ Adilabad to Vodarevu via Utnoor, Khanapur, Korutla, Vemulawada, Siddipet, Jangaon, Suryapeta, Miryalguda, Piduguralla and Narsaraopeta, 630 km;*
- ❖ Sironcha to Renigunta via Mahadevpur, Parkal, Warangal, Tungathurti, Nakrekal, Nalgonda, Chalakurthi, Ma-cherla, Errangondapalem, Thokapalli, Markapur, Beshthavaripeta, Kanigiri, Rapur and Venkatagiri, 725 km;*
- ❖ Kakinada to Suryapeta via Dwarapudi, Kovvur, Jangareddygudem, Aswaraopeta and Khammam, 310 km.*

The total length of the roads add up to 3,000 km, which is a major chunk of the 10,000-km roads proposed nationally. The project will be taken up under the Public-Private Partnership mode, for which tenders would be called. The Hyderabad-Srisailem, Adilabad-Utnoor highways, which are covered with forests, need the permission of the AP forest department for any road widening or maintenance work.