

Deccan Chronicle 22.07.2009

CAG finds holes in road projects

July 22nd, 2009 By Our Correspondent

Chennai, July 21: The Chennai corporation has not taken up any major road widening work or formation of new roads. None of the 29 works proposed under the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme III during 2005–08 was taken up indicating the poor and tardy implementation of the project, according to a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday.

Of 17 infrastructure works — 5 flyovers, 6 ROBs, 4 grade separators and two bridges — taken up by Chennai corporation, only one flyover was completed and two flyovers were under progress as of March 2008. About 48 road widening works were held up on account of non-shifting of electric poles and junction boxes despite payment of Rs 11.72 crore to the TNEB as shifting charges. Inadequate parking facilities, non-provision of separate cycle track, encroachment of footpaths, inadequate pedestrian guard rails and prioritised subways in Chennai Metropolitan Area contributed to deficient road development works and traffic

management measures. Non-synchronisation of existing signals, non-implementation of scientific systems like area traffic control, ineffective monitoring through CCTV and inadequate traffic policemen affected traffic enforcement, the report said.

It suggested among other things a comprehensive time-bound traffic management programme for CMA taking into account existing traffic problems and anticipated population of 88.2 lakh population by 2011.

A performance review on traffic improvement and road safety revealed that accidents increased by 64 per cent from 4,202 in 2003 to 6,892 in 2007.