

Shaheed-e-Millat Expressway (Pole lights)

Dear Editor,

Reluctantly I agreed to move to Defense but let's say that one of the deciding factors was Shaheed-e-Millat expressway as my work place and children's school are on this side of the bridge. The authorities managed to complete most of it and it looked fine. During the construction of our house we used to visit the site via the SM expressway.

Being a part of national "apathy culture" I was not surprised and bothered that all the sodium street lights on the entire stretch of the expressway (except for the main bridge part crossing the Shakra-e-faisal) used to be ON in the day time and OFF at night. This happened may be for more than six to eight months. In a way I was ashamed that in my busy daily schedule I did not have the time to call or go to the concerned department to complain about the switching systems but I sure had a tough time to convince my children about the whole situation as bad. They used to question me about shortage of power in the country, billions of dollars of loan money, peoples tax money poorly spent and going waste, etc. I used to come up with explanations like lack of education and professionalism in every field of life, the political postings and rampant corruption etc.

It has now been almost another year that the lights are completely OFF, there are several dangerous humps in the road, guard rails are broken, and there have been several accidents. Isn't it time that we should wake up, before a major catastrophe comes our way. One does not question the serious peak hours bottle necking at the Korangi road junction because that is a design problem and which should have been taken care of at the planning stage but at least we can make the most of what we have now.

I am sure that the entire work force in charge of public utilities and services is not incompetent or corrupt. There must be many God fearing, upright officers who have authority and will to change. There is also a good chance that this letter may attract attention of one these officers.

DAZ

Karachi, 3rd March, 1997