

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1737
ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2024**

CONDITION OF NHS IN MAHARASHTRA

**1737. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the deplorable conditions of National Highways (NHs) in the rainy season due to poor maintenance and large number of potholes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the maintenance activities undertaken and the funds allocated for the same, particularly for Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the specific climatic conditions and topography of some regions of the Maharashtra posing unique challenges to the functionality, safety and maintenance of NHs and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken or likely to be taken by Government for addressing these region-specific maintenance issues and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) Development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. The conditions of NHs are assessed from time to time by the Ministry and its various executing agencies

such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Public Works Departments (PWDs) / Road Construction Departments (RCDs) / Corporations of State Governments / Union Territories (UTs). The maintenance works on NHs are accordingly taken up from time to time to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition; such works also include rectification of deficiencies and damages caused due to various reasons, rehabilitation and strengthening of NHs, repair / rehabilitation / construction of bridges etc.

The Ministry has evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections through accountable maintenance agency, including for the State of Maharashtra.

The M&R of stretches of NHs, where Development works have commenced or Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contracts have been awarded, are the responsibility of the concerned Concessionaires/ Contractors till the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ the Concession Period. Similarly, for NHs stretches undertaken under TOT (Toll Operate and Transfer) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust), M&R responsibility lies with concerned Concessionaire till the end of the Concession Period.

For remaining NHs stretches, Ministry has taken policy decision to undertake maintenance works through contract maintenance, which is either Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), leaving no section of NHs without any accountable contractual maintenance agency.

Ministry has incurred expenditure of Rs. 23,214 Crore towards M&R of NHs during the last five years and current year, including Rs. 1,505 Crore for the State of Maharashtra during this period.

(c) and (d) Aspects of high rainfall, hilly terrain, soil category etc. are invariably taken into consideration during preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for all NH development / upgradation projects, including for the State of Maharashtra.

To ensure safety and maintenance of NHs in high rainfall regions such as Konkan region and Western Ghat region of Maharashtra covering most parts of Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigad, Thane, Mumbai, Palghar, Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli districts, efforts have been made to provide concrete roads / whitetopping with high embankment and adequate drainage, slope protection works to safeguard against landslides in consultation with specialized agencies, adequate road furniture, etc. during upgradation / maintenance of NHs sections in such regions.

Further, in coastal regions like Raigad, Thane, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Palghar, special treatments such as anti-corrosive treatment to steel, adequate drainage arrangements etc. have been undertaken for protection against marine environment.

Other methods like use of Mastic, Rapid Setting Concrete are also used for timely addressing the distressed portions of the road.
