

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:763

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009

DELAY IN COMPLETION OF CENTRAL PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of infrastructure projects are running behind their respective time schedule of completion;
- (b) if so,the details thereof and the reasons therefor; Ministry-wise;
- (c) the details of cost escalation as a result of time-overflow; and
- (d) the steps taken to complete such projects within the stipulated time period?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K.VASAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1st January, 2009 out of 853 infrastructure projects costing Rs.20 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 318 projects are delayed with respect to their approved original schedule. The details of projects reporting delays is given, Ministry-wise, in Annexure-I. Some of the reasons for time overrun in delayed projects are fund constraints, delay in land acquisition, slow progress by contractors, delay in supply of equipment, delay in award of contracts and law and order problems.

(c) Out of 318 delayed projects, cost escalation has been reported by 116 projects. The original approved cost of these 116 projects has escalated from Rs.91841 crore to Rs. 129560 crore. Details of projects with cost overruns, Ministry-wise, is given in Annexure-II.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for completion of projects on time include:

- (i) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;
- (ii) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.;
- (iii) setting up of Empowered Committees in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;
- (iv) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;
- (v) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;
- (vi) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and
- (vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents.