

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010

CONDITION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Bais Shri Ramesh;Rajendran Shri C.;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has made any survey regarding the condition of National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of National Highways which are damaged and are not road worthy;
- (d) whether the Union Government/NHAI has formulated any comprehensive programme to take up repair and long term maintenance of NHs in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether proposals have been received from State Governments in this regard;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether the Union Government/NHAI has laid down any provisions for fixing responsibility/penalising the executing company/contractor responsible for damage caused to NH within a specific period of its construction; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof and such action taken during each of the last three years and the current year, NH-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) to (c) The development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process and the NHs in the country are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources based upon the assessment of their conditions, depending upon traffic density and inter-se priority of works.

(d) to (g) The maintenance of the stretches of NHs, where 4/6 laning works are under implementation by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), is being carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. In case of sections entrusted to NHAI where 4/6 laning have not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads is being carried out by NHAI directly or through State Public Works Departments (PWDs) with funds provided directly by NHAI. Completed sections of NHAI funded projects are being maintained through Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contracts and the sections being developed under Built Operate Transfer (BOT) basis are being maintained by the concessionaire.

The non-plan allocations that are annually allocated to this Ministry for Maintenance & Repair (M&R) of NHs are of the order of about 40% of the actual requirements as per the Ministry's stipulated norms based on the Report of the Committee on Norms for Maintenance of Roads in India, published in 2001. There is no proposal at present for taking up repair and long term maintenance of entire NH network in the country. Further, no such proposals have been received from the State Governments.

(h) and (i) In case of Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) projects, the contractors have to carry out correction of defects besides completion of minor incomplete items during the Defects Liability Period. The maintenance of completed projects under NHDP is being undertaken through O&M contracts. However in case of BOT (Toll or Annuity) projects, it is the responsibility of the concessionaire to maintain the project highway for the entire concession period including construction period. There are penal provisions in the Agreements in case of non-compliance with the stipulated conditions.

The year-wise and NH-wise details of actions taken during the last three years and current year due to failure on part of contractors to comply with such provisions are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.