

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4316  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009  
WIDTH OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS  
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

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

- (a) whether the Government/NHAI has adopted a uniform criteria for fixing the width of the National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal from the States including Kerala having high density of population and habitations for exemption from such criteria;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the status of the completion of work on NH-17;
- (f) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government/ NHAI to proceed with the existing width of land acquired for the purpose; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g) The National Highways passing through rural and urban areas are constructed with prescribed width as indicated in IRC:73-1980. As per the Ministry's policy, the densely populated areas are not exempted from these prescribed guidelines. For 4-laning under National Highways development Project, minimum 60m Right of Way is proposed by this Ministry; Kerala was subsequently exempted from 60m ROW and minimum 45m Right of Way is accepted (depending on site condition and project requirements), on the request of the State Government. 18 works on NH-17 in Kerala are in progress. However, the four laning of NH 17 in Kerala is to be done under National Highway Development Project (NHDP), of which two packages of 169 km in Kannur- Kuttipuram reach are awarded, and the entire NHDP work on NH-17 in Kerala is expected to be completed by 2013.