

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:195
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NH DEVELOPMENT
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government/NHAI has any mechanism to assess the environmental impact of highway development/construction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any monitoring body/agency to carry out such assessment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number and details of the research institutions in the country involved in the development of eco-friendly technology for highways construction;
- (f) whether the Government/NHAI is also involved in establishing life support centres (trauma centres) along the National Highways in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such centres established on the National Highways alongwith the facilities available therein, NH-wise and State-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) For all projects relating to improvement/construction of National Highways passing through environmentally sensitive areas, environment impact is assessed by a consultant as part of project formulation.
- (c) & (d) NHAI has a system of engaging Environment Engineers in the team of Independent Consultant, who are responsible for supervising and monitoring the environment compliance in the projects. In addition, the Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment and Forest are also responsible for monitoring the compliance of the environment conditions.
- (e) No such details are available in the Ministry.
- (f) & (g) NHAI is providing ambulances at approximately 50 km intervals on completed stretches of National Highways through O&M contractors/concessionaires with basic life support system and paramedical staff. The role of NHAI is limited to transferring the accident victim to nearest hospital after first aid given by para-medical staff present in the ambulance.