

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
NH PROJECTS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) the number of ongoing National Highway Projects in the country alongwith the details of the works undertaken for widening, extension and maintenance of NHs during the last three years;
- (b) the details of projects whose cost escalated due to time overrun;
- (c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed alongwith the time by which the works in regard to the remaining National Highways are likely to commence;
- (d) the details of the expenditure incurred on the said National Highways during the last three years; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to expedite the work so as to avoid cost escalation?

Answer

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

- (a) 211 Projects of National Highway (NH) implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and 72 number of NH projects implemented by various State Public Works Departments (PWDs) & Border Roads Organization (BRO) costing more than Rs. 20crore were under implementation during the last three years. Wherever 4/6 laning works are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, the maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. Other NH stretches are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.
- (b) Cost overruns are applicable only to Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) projects. Escalations due to delay are paid as per contract provisions. In fact the escalation is a contractually enabled provision which permits to limit its payment to material actually consumed, at prevailing prices when the material was consumed. In case the project is delayed due to reasons attributable to the contractor, liquidated damages are to be imposed and no escalation is paid. Actual escalation due to delay or cost overrun are known only after completion of the project and final settlement of bills.
- (c) The development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process and projects are generally targeted for completion from 12 months to 36 months depending upon the nature and magnitude of the project.
- (d) An expenditure of Rs. 44,672.48 crore was incurred for development & maintenance of NHs during the last three years.
- (e) The corrective measures taken for expeditious implementation of the NH projects include regular monitoring at various levels, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against non-performing Contractors.