

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3432
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
IMPROVING SURFACE QUALITY
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether the National Highway constituting only 2 per cent of the total road network carry nearly 40 per cent of road traffic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to widen and improve surface quality of the National Highways;
- (c) whether engineering flaws, climate conditions and poor maintenance among other things have led to the dilapidated condition of roads in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are any norms/ directions regarding the quality of all weather roads in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken to ensure compliance of said norms?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) India has about 42.36 lakh kilometer length of road network. Out of this, the total length of National Highways (NHs) network is about 70,934 km in length, which is about 1.7 % of the total road network. The NHs carry about 40% of the road traffic. Out of the 70,934 km length of NHs, about 16,187 km length is having NH standards of 4 lanes and above, about 36,995 km length is of 2-lane NH standards and about 17,752 km length is less than 2-lane NH standards.

The development and maintenance of NHs including their widening and improvement of riding quality is a continuous process and all the NHs in the country are being kept in traffic-worthy condition based on the traffic density, inter-se priority and availability of funds by taking proper engineering measures and following the relevant standards and codal provisions of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and this Ministry's extant policies.

(e) to (g) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of NHs. The quality control for the NH works are governed by the relevant stipulations of this Ministry's Specifications for Road and Bridge Works, the provisions contained in IRC:SP-57-2000 (Guidelines on Quality Systems for Roads) and IRC:SP-47-1998 (Guidelines on Quality Systems for Road Bridges). Necessary checks and tests are made as per Ministry's extant policy for ensuring adherence to these norms.