

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:81

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

DELAY IN LAND ACQUISITION

Jagannath Dr. M.;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether land acquisition has delayed completion of roads and highway projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of projects delayed due to acquisition of land, State-wise and NH-wise;
- (c) the details of major constraints faced by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in acquiring land for its highway projects; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the acquisition of land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) and (b) Land acquisition is one of the factors contributing to delay in implementation of some projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Delay generally occurs due to other reasons also, which overlap and attributing any delay solely to land acquisition may not be appropriate.

(c) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) faces constraints on the institutional aspects such as inadequate manpower/physical resources with the Competent Authority of State Government, erroneous revenue records leading to incomplete notifications, frequent transfers of Competent Authority (being the State Government Officers not under the control of NHAI), assigning low priority to NHAI works (being additional charge other than their main duties and responsibilities), time lost in arbitration, high rate of compensation determined by the Competent Authorities not conforming to the provisions of NH Act, delay in transfer of Government land/land belonging to the Defence/ Railways, etc.

(d) NHAI has taken several measures in order to cut down delays in land acquisition. These include strengthening of infrastructure provided to Competent Authority for Land Acquisitions (CALAs), facilitating better coordination with the State Governments etc. by creating Regional/Zonal offices and persuading State Governments to set up high powered committees under Chief Secretaries for NHDP projects. For some projects in a few States Special Land Acquisition Units (SLAUs) have been set up. Progress of land acquisition is also being monitored through regular reviews.