

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:56  
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009  
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the reasons impeding the timely construction and proper maintenance of National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the impediments and expedite highway development;
- (c) the details of the targets fixed by the Government for increasing the network of the National Highways in the current year;
- (d) whether a meeting was held in June, 2009 with the highway developers in this regard;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified the reasons impeding the timely construction and proper maintenance of National Highways. The main constraints in implementation of the projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest / environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints, etc. The steps taken / being taken to expedite implementation of highway projects are given in the annexure which is laid on the table of the house along with answers of part (c) to (e).

(c) No target has been fixed for increasing the National Highways network during the current year.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held with highway developers in June, 2009. Various issues were raised including environmental issues, delay in forest clearances, taxation issues regarding exemption of NH construction / maintenance works from service tax as well as local tax, exemption from custom duty for import of equipment / machinery for construction, delay in signing of State Support Agreements, land acquisition problems, tolling issues etc. Action has been initiated to take up all issues with concerned authorities.