

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:479  
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009  
STATUS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether a meeting of State Road Ministers had been convened to assess the status of road construction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the difficulties put forward by States in the construction of National Highways and State roads;
- (c) whether the Government has issued instructions to the NHA for better coordination between developers of roads and NHA; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) A conference of the Ministers in-charge of the Highways in the States and Union Territories was held on 24th June, 2008 under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways to discuss the critical issues concerning National Highways (NHs) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which required urgent intervention for resolving the problems affecting implementation of the projects. During the meeting the Ministers in-charge of the Highways in the States and Union Territories mainly raised the issues regarding the proposals for enhancement of allocation of funds for development and maintenance of NHs and other Centrally sponsored road works, enhancement of sanctions, proposals concerning escalation for development works on NHs, early sanction of works, decentralization and delegation of more powers to the State Governments, proposal to take up improvement of single lane / intermediate lane NHs stretches to two-lane standards including removal of existing deficiencies, making provisions of appropriate numbers of underpasses and foot over bridges on 4 lane sections, proper upkeep and maintenance of NHs stretches by the entrepreneurs and contractors engaged by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) to the required level of service during construction period, duly informing State Government and local authority before NHA commences their work, review of toll policy, road safety works, proposals for declaration of new NHs, strengthening of organizational structures of NHA and this Ministry, coordination of this Ministry with the Railways for speedy finalization of designs of Railway Over / Under Bridges (ROBs / RUBs), ensuring uniform policy for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement for project affected persons, etc.

(c) and (d) Developers have inter-alia raised issues of land acquisition, utility shifting, Viability Gap Funding payments and variations. NHA has been asked to take actions as per contract provisions.