

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4898
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
TUNNELS IN BORDER AREAS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to construct some tunnels in the strategically important areas close to the borders;
- (b) if so, whether the Border Roads Organisation has conducted feasibility study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the schedule of construction of the tunnels; and
- (e) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful in movement of troops and civilians in the said areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. One tunnel is under construction at Rohtang Pass on Manali-Sarchu-Leh road and completion date is February 2015.

Feasibility study of following three tunnels in Jammu & Kashmir are under progress:

(i) Zojila Tunnel.

(ii) Zojila Morh.

(iii) Razadhan pass.

Approval-in-Principle was accorded for carrying out feasibility study of three more tunnels (two in J&K and one in Sikkim) as under:

(i) Khardungla in J&K

(ii) Sadhana pass in J&K

(iii) Theng Tunnel in Sikkim.

(d) Actual commencement of construction will depend on the outcome of the feasibility study.

(e) The tunnels will provide all weather access to remote corners which otherwise remain cutoff from mainland in winter being snowbound.