

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:553
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
HIGHWAY PROJECTS ON TOLL MODE
Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has expressed its inability to award National Highway projects on toll mode during 2013-14;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a number of highway projects awarded during the last two fiscals are yet to begin; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to start these projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (DR. C.P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 553 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06-05-2013 ASKED BY SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV AND DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI REGARDING HIGHWAY PROJECTS ON TOLL MODE

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) There have been delays in achieving financial close in 33 projects covering a length of 3,518 km. The reasons for not achieving the financial close are lack of equity with Concessionaire, difficulty in obtaining debt, delay in obtaining forest / environment clearance, land acquisition, procurement of soil / earth / aggregates, etc. Recently, the Government has resolved the issue of delinking environmental clearance from forest clearance and exempting linear stretches from the requirement of NOC from Gram Sabha. Reserve Bank of India has given dispensation to treat the debt due to lenders, to the extent assured by the Project Authorities in terms of concession agreement, as secured loan. Dialogues with stakeholders including financial institutes are held to infuse greater funds flow in the road sector. In order to expedite implementation of the projects, Regional Offices have been set up by National Highways Authority of India (NHA) headed by Chief General Managers. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Managers. Special Land Acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. Chief Secretaries of State Government have also been nominated as Nodal Officers to expedite construction of highway projects. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Headquarters as well as field units.