

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1787  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009  
ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK OF BRO  
Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether several roads maintained by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) remain closed during the winter season due to heavy snow accumulation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the minimum time taken in the snow clearance works;
- (c) the steps taken by the BRO for ensuring all-weather functioning of the said roads/stretches alongwith the funds allocated and spent during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the BRO proposes to acquire modern technology equipment for such works; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, including the allocations made therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): There are 25 roads which remain closed during winter season due to heavy snow accumulation. The period of closure is from November to April.

(c) These roads fall under hazardous weather conditions involving numerous and frequent avalanches. Therefore snow clearance is very difficult on these roads during winter. To provide all weather connectivity to Lahul Spiti and Ladakh region contract for construction of Rohatang Tunnel was awarded on 24th September 2009. Further to provide all weather connectivity to Kargil and Ladakh region a consultancy for carrying out feasibility study for tunnel at Zozila in Jammu & Kashmir was awarded on 29th April 2009. However, BRO is keeping open the operationally and strategically important 60 roads during winter with minimum road closure through regular snow clearance operations. The funds allotted and spent on these 60 roads during last three years and current year are as under:

S.No. Year Fund allotted and utilized  
(Rs. in crore)

1. 2006-2007 12.96

2. 2007-2008 12.96

3. 2008-2009 13.14

4. 2009-2010 9.51 crore utilized upto 20th October against the allotment of Rs. 14.26 crore.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) BRO is in the process of acquiring modern equipment like snow cutter, snow sweeper, snow blower and snow ploughs for snow clearance works. During 2009-2010 Rs. 5.78 crores is allocated for acquisition of snow clearance equipment.