

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:174

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

TWO- LANING OF HIGHWAYS

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether a large stretch of the National Highway network in the country is single-laned;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, NH-wise, State-wise and stretch-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to convert these Highways into two-lanes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and stretch-wise;
- (e) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) proposes to convert many road projects into two-lane instead of four-lane so as to reduce the construction cost;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact on traffic movement; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 174 FOR ANSWER ON 01.12.2009 ASKED BY SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD AND SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI REGRDING TWO- LANING OF HIGHWAYS

(a) to (d) About 19,064 km length of National Highways (NHs) are below 2-lane NH standards as per the status in first week of July, 2009. The State-wise lengths of these stretches of NHs are at Annexure-I. Out of this, leaving apart the lengths of NHs included for upgradation under various approved programmes, such as various phases of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-East Region (SARDP-NE), Special Programme for Development of Roads in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, etc., about 6,304 km length of NHs are below 2-lane NH standards. The State-wise details of NHs having less than 2-lane standards, which are not covered under any approved programmes are at Annexure-II.

The major targets envisaged for development of NHs other than those covered under the NHDP during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) are (i) Accelerated efforts to bring NHs network to minimum 2-lane standards by Twelfth Five Year Plan and 4-laning of small segments of non- NHDP stretches; (ii) Removing existing deficiencies such as inadequate capacity, insufficient pavement thickness etc., in the road network by strengthening the NH network / improving riding quality.

The Government has taken initiatives to develop the entire balance NH network to minimum of 2-lane NH standards by December, 2014 by exploring the possibility of securing World Bank Loan and also through budgetary allocations. The proposal/concept submitted by the Ministry has been forwarded to the World Bank by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for a loan assistance of US \$ 2.96 billion in phases. The State-wise and NH-wise lengths of the tentatively identified lists of about 3,770 km length of NHs for proposed improvement under World Bank Loan assistance and about 1,963 km length of NHs proposed for improvement under budgetary allocations are at Annexure-III and Annexure-IV respectively. As approach of corridor development (i.e. long continuous stretch) is to be adopted, proposed development of these corridors of NHs include strengthening (in adjoining reaches) in addition to widening to 2 lane/ 2 lane with paved shoulder standards. The planning of the improvement of the balance short stretches of NHs (having less than 2-lanes) to 2-lane standards may be taken up under Annual Plan of Works.

(e) to (g) In order to improve the viability of projects on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis under BOT (Toll), the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) will take up upgradation of sections currently unviable for four laning on BOT (Toll), in two stages, i.e. initially upgradation to two lane with paved shoulder and later to four lane standards as per traffic density.