

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1885
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed some road construction projects to remove the problems being faced therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to achieve the target of construction of 20 km. roads per day;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any step to solve the environmental problems arising out of road construction activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Review of all projects under implementation is undertaken on regular basis so as to monitor the progress of ongoing works and resolve problems faced during implementation. During the meeting held by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th August, 2009 a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission to suggest measures to ramp up National Highway Development Project (NHDP). The major recommendations accepted include changes in document i.e. Model Concession Agreement (MCA), Request for Qualification (RFQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP), empowering National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Board to accept single bids after examining reasonableness of the same, providing additional budgetary support for Special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP), Jammu & Kashmir projects over and above cess, etc. Work plans have been prepared for the projects to be awarded in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

In order to expedite implementation of projects, regional offices have been set up by NHAI headed by Chief General Managers. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Managers who will monitor land acquisition matters as well as implementation of projects. Special Land Acquisition Units (SLAUs) are also being set up to expedite land acquisition. State Governments have been requested to appoint Chief Secretaries as Nodal officers for NHDP projects. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Headquarters as well as field units.

(c) & (d) Environment impact assessment and identification of mitigation measures are part of project preparation of all NHDP projects of NHAI. For the projects requiring environmental clearances, the same is being obtained from Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) following their guidelines. The contractors / concessionaires are responsible for observing / abiding by all laws, rules and regulations in force governing pollution and environmental protection. The amount for compulsory afforestation is deposited with the respective forest departments of State Governments for undertaking plantation to compensate the loss of trees resulted on account of road construction activities.