

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN NORTH EAST
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

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

- (a) the present status of the ongoing National Highway Projects in North-Eastern States including East-West Corridor project in Assam;
- (b) the time-frame fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;
- (c) whether some difficulties have been reported in the execution of these projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to contain time and cost-overrun of the projects; and
- (e) whether there has been inordinate delay in the execution of the second bridge over Brahmaputra River at Saraighat and if so, the reasons therefor along with corrective action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 FOR ANSWER ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2015 ASKED BY SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL REGARDING HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN NORTH EAST.

(a) to (d) The project wise status of the ongoing National Highway Projects in North- Eastern States including East-West Corridor project in Assam for major works costing Rs.100.00 Crore and above is given at Annexure-I. There have been difficulties in execution of the projects such as delay in land acquisition and shifting of utilities by the concerned departments of the State Government, delay in wildlife and Forest clearances and approval ROBs, delay in clearances for extraction of materials etc besides slow progress by Contractor and law and order problems encountered in some areas. In order to avoid the time and cost overrun in future Projects, the Ministry has decided that all National Highway works costing Rs.100.00 Crore and above for road works and Rs.50.00 Crore and above for Bridges and Rail Over Bridges will be executed through the Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode of execution, further, works will be awarded only after 90% of encumbrance free land is available.

(e) Yes, Madam. The construction of second bridge over river Brahmaputra at Saraighat has been delayed due to delay in land acquisition and utility shifting and Non-availability of necessary permission to extract earth & sand (river sand & silt) and aggregate for the work. Further the presence of Oil pipeline close to two wells P7 & P17 and the proximity of the existing bridge has necessitated redesigning of the bridge and delay in its execution. All the issues have been resolved and the bridge is targeted for completion by 31.12.2015.