

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2350
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD BY BRO
Ahr Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is constructing roads in Uttar Pradesh along the border of Nepal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total length of the road and its cost of construction;
- (c) whether there has been delay in completion of various road construction projects being undertaken by the BRO;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the BRO has completed road construction works at the National Highway No. 16 in Maharashtra and if so, the details and present status thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

- (a) & (b): No, Madam.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. There are certain delays in execution of road projects mainly due to the following reasons:
 - (i) Delay in Forest / Wildlife / Environment clearance.
 - (ii) Hard rock stretches.
 - (iii) Limited working season.
 - (iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material.

Government has taken following measures to expedite the pace of road projects:

- (i) Chief Secretaries of various State Governments have been requested to constitute Empowered Committees under their chairmanship with Secretaries of concerned departments as members to resolve issues related to land acquisition, environmental clearance, lack of quarries etc.
- (ii) Regular monitoring of forest clearance cases, establishment of single window system at district, State and Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF) levels, and simplification of forms.
- (iii) Further, Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF) has given the General Approval under section 2 of forest (conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for (a) construction and widening of two lane roads by BRO and other road construction agencies entrusted with the job by Ministry of Defence, in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) (b) widening of roads (by the BRO and other road construction agencies) which are identified by the Ministry of Defence as link roads between Border Roads in the area within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and National Highways / State Highways / Other roads subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) Air effort availability has been streamlined through close coordination with IAF.
- (v) Modern machineries / equipment have been approved for procurement. Allotment has been increased.
- (vi) Outsourcing has been allowed to augment capacity of BRO.
- (vii) A Working Group has been constituted on 3.6.2013 by Ministry of Environment & Forest under the Chairmanship of Secretary MoEF to review the forest clearance cases.

(e) Project Hirak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was assigned work on National Highway-16 from Km 199 (Chennur in Andhra Pradesh) to Km 492 (Sosanpal in Chhattisgarh), a total length of 293 kms. Out of this 211.00 km was completed. In order to enable BRO to give priority to strategic border roads, Government has closed Project Hirak of BRO in Maharashtra on 1.4.2011 and handed over NH-16 to State PWD.