

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4180

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014

CONCRETE ROADS

Kashyap Shri Virender;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to construct all new National Highways by using cement in place of bitumen;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the average upfront investment for the purpose as compared to bitumen roads;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the financial viability as well as durability of roads constructed by cement and if so, the details thereof along with the benefits of cement roads;
- (d) whether concessionaires have been given flexibility to adopt their own designs, standards and specifications as per the site requirement under Public Private Partnership mode in the construction of National Highways and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the repair of concrete roads is highly expensive as compared to bitumen roads and if so, the robust quality monitoring mechanism being placed by the Government for the cement road projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. It has been decided in the Ministry that the type of pavement to be adopted for National Highways projects should be determined on the basis of durability and life cycle cost. Considering the issues related to environment, longer service life, fuel consumption, resistance to extreme weather conditions, saving of natural resources and maintenance etc. the concrete pavement could be the default mode of construction on National Highways. The initial cost of construction of cement concrete pavement is generally more than the bituminous pavement depending upon the availability of base items in different regions of the country.

(c) No Madam.

(d) As per the Manuals of Specifications and Standards for four laning and six laning of National Highways through Public Private Partnership, the Concessionaires are free to adopt international practices, alternative specifications, materials and standards to bring in innovation in the design and construction, provided these are better or comparable with the Indian standards.

(e) No Madam. The cement concrete pavement maintains a hard durable surface throughout its design life, so the routine repairs are not generally required.