

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.854**  
ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019

**ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON CHAR DHAM PROJECT**

854. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether work has been started on the 'Char Dham' project in the State of Uttarakhand, if so, the detailed status thereof;
- (b) whether an Environment Impact Assessment was conducted for the said project and if so, the findings of such assessment;
- (c) whether the said project will negatively impact the ecology of the region due to felling of trees, soil erosion, etc. and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to mitigate those negative impacts;
- (d) whether any person will be displaced or indirectly negatively affected by the said project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to mitigate those negative impacts?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) Yes Madam. Char Dham National Highway (NH) connectivity program aims at improvement/development of 889 km length of NHs leading to Yamunotri Dham, Gangotri Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Badrinath Dham and part of route leading to Kailash Mansarovar yatra at total project cost for Rs. 11,700 crores. Rishikesh to Rudra Prayag (old NH-58), Rudra Prayag to Mana Village (old NH-58), Rishikesh to Dharasu bend (old NH-94), Dharasu bend to Gangotri (old NH-108), Dharasu bend to Yamnotri (old NH-94), Rudraprayag to Gaurikund (old NH-109) and Tanakpur to Pithoragarh (old NH-125) are included in this program. Out of a total 53 separate and independent projects under this program, 37 projects in total length of 633 Km has been sanctioned, which include 28 projects in total length of 508 km at implementation stage. 9 projects are at tender /award stage. Out of balance 16 projects, 5 nos projects lie on NH leading from Dharasu bend to Gangotri (in about 94 km length) which lies in Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone and where change of land use is not permitted and thus no work has been taken up so far for want of finalization of master plan of Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone.) The original target date of completion of the program was March 2020. However, the program has been

delayed due to litigation related to forest and environment clearance in various Hon'ble courts and the exact date of completion of the program depends upon final outcome of the same.

(b) to (e) In order to mitigate impact of project on environment, mitigative measures such as slope protection, adequate drainage works, compensatory afforestation, proper muck disposal at earmarked muck disposal sites etc are being undertaken in the projects under Chardham programe. Land Acquisition for the project is being done in accordance with provisions of National Highways Act, 1956 and relevant schedules of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and its subsequent amendments and compensation as per these Acts are being paid to land owner to mitigate negative impact.

\*\*\*\*\*