

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 76
ANSWERED ON – 14/12/2022

RESTORATION OF DELAYED ROAD PROJECTS

76. SHRI SAMIR ORAON:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to restart the delayed or stalled road projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of projects identified under this plan;
- (c) whether further action plan is being prepared after ascertaining the reasons for delay in these projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 76 FOR ANSWER ON 14/12/2022 ASKED BY SHRI SAMIR
ORAON REGARDING RESTORATION OF DELAYED ROAD PROJECTS.**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Government constantly monitors sanctioned projects and as part of this exercise, 719 delayed National Highway projects have been identified across various States. These projects are not stalled but have gone beyond the scheduled date of completion on account of various reasons such as above average monsoon rainfall in some States, COVID-19 pandemic, bottlenecks in land acquisition, statutory clearances/permissions encroachment removal, non-availability of soil/aggregate, law & order, financial crunch of Concessionaire, poor performance of Contractor/Concessionaire etc. Out of these 719 projects, 268 projects have a delay of less than one year; and 438 projects are expected to be completed in the current financial year.

(c) & (d) The Government is closely monitoring the construction progress of these projects and proactively working with project implementing agencies, State Governments, contractors/developers. Periodic review meetings are being held at various levels to resolve the bottlenecks and complete these delayed projects. In order to avoid project delays due to unavailability of land, Government is ensuring that projects get awarded after notifying 80% of the required land under section 3(D) of the National Highways Act 1956. For projects delayed or stalled due to other reasons like delay in fulfilment of the Government's condition precedent, Contractors' / Concessionaires' cash flow problems, etc., the Government has taken several steps for their completion such as premium re-scheduling, securitization of road sector loans, one-time fund infusion, exit plan for equity investors, mutual termination/cancellation of awarded road projects and re-bidding, revamping the dispute resolution system, relaxations in contract provisions under Atmanirbhar Bharat to improve the liquidity of funds available with contractors/developers, etc. For projects delayed or stalled due to reasons attributable to the contractor, penal action is taken against the contractor as per contract provision. Further, close coordination with other concerned departments such as environment, forest etc. is being done so as to ensure timely clearances for project execution.
