

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1807
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Uttarakhand tunnels

1807. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 66 tunnels are being constructed in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if not, number of tunnels which are being constructed along with the details of the ones which are in pipeline; and
- (c) whether Government has received any warnings from environmentalists or geologists regarding ongoing works and if so, the steps that have been initiated by Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) As per the extant provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, there is a laid down schedule for requirements of prior Environmental Clearance, detailed Environment Impact Assessment studies, public consultations etc. for various categories of activities/projects. Tunnel projects are not included separately in the schedule of EIA Notification, 2006, however, in some cases tunnels are integral part of the major infrastructure projects like river valley & hydroelectric project, highways, railways, etc

As a part of highway project, one tunnel of 340 Meter is being constructed near Daat Kali Temple under Ganeshpur – Dehradun section from Km.8.30 to Km.16.380 of NH-72A (Package-2) and total five (05) nos. tunnels are proposed (under Construction/Pipeline) in various projects under jurisdiction of NHAI, RO, Uttarakhand. Details are enclosed in Annexure-I

Further, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change has granted three numbers (3) of environmental clearance from 2014 to 1.03.2023 in the state of Uttarakhand for the river valley & hydroelectric project, which are under construction. The status is enclosed as Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Name of Project	No. of Tunnels under construction/pipeline
1. Haridwar Bypass Road (Greenfield Alignment) in the state of Uttarakhand (Package-2)	01 (Pipeline)
2. Construction of Ring Road (Greenfield) around Dehradun City	01 (Pipeline)
3. 6 lane access-controlled highway from Mohand to Daat kali Tunnel of Ganeshpur – Dehradun section from Km.8.30 to Km.16.380 of NH-72A (Package-2)	01 (The project work is under construction)
4. Proposed Connectivity to Mussorie to Dehradun.	01 (Pipeline)
5. Development of Tunnel form Dehradun/Rishikesh to Tehri in the State of Uttarakhand.	01 (Pipeline)

Annexure-II

S. No	Project name	Authority	Date of EC granted	Details of Tunnel	Status of construction
1	Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project	State Government	13-12-2019	(i) 2 nos Tunnels	Under Construction
2	LAKHWAR MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT	State Government	02-02-2021	(i) Diversion Tunnel: 2 nos (ii) Tail Race Tunnel: 1 no. (iii) Cable tunnel: 1 nos.	Under Construction
3	Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro-Electric Project	Central PSU	26-08-2021	(i) Diversion Tunnel: 1 no. (ii) Diversion cum Spillway Tunnel: 1 nos (iii) Spill Tunnel: 1 nos (iv) Silt Flushing Tunnel: 1 nos (v) Head Race Tunnel: 1 nos (vi) Tail Race Tunnel: 1 nos	Under Construction