

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2485
ANSWERED ON –22/03/2023

UNSCIENTIFIC ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN UTTARAKHAND

2485 SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Char Dham road project that is being implemented in the Uttarakhand Himalaya is turning out to be an unscientific road-construction project with catastrophic consequences for the mountain ecology;
- (b) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons for disastrous implications for the mountain region;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to build 66 tunnels in the Uttarakhand Himalaya and 18 tunnels are already in operation;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is aware that building these subsurface structures is damaging environment in Uttarakhand; and
- (f) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Roads under Chardham Project are executed as per relevant codes of Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and Ministry's guidelines. Implementation of Chardham project is monitored by Committee appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). Currently, there are 2 tunnels under operation and 3 tunnels are under construction on NHs in the State of Uttarakhand. Also Detailed Project Reports for construction of 9 tunnels on NHs in the state are under preparation.

(e) and (f) Construction of NHs including the tunnels thereon are implemented in accordance with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) notifications, relevant IRC codes and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways guidelines which duly consider environmental aspects, apart from other technical parameters.
