

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-740
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2023

CONSTRUCTION OF BHAVNAGAR-TALAJA-MAHUVA NH

740. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) the work of the National Highway of Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva (Gujarat) road has been awarded to whom and when it was awarded;
- (b) the time limit to complete the said work; and
- (c) the details of the delay caused and the penalties imposed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva (Gujarat) road project is being implemented under two packages i.e. Bhavnagar-Talaja (Package-1) and Talaja-Mahuva (Package-2). The work of Bhavnagar-Talaja (Package-1) was awarded to M/s. Sadbhav Engineering Limited on 26.05.2016. The work was commenced on 07.02.2017 and anticipated date of completion is 31.03.2023.

The work of Talaja-Mahuva (Package-2) was earlier awarded to M/s. MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited & San Jose India Infrastructure Construction Private Limited on 26.05.2016 and the work was commenced on 25.04.2017. However, the contract was terminated on 17.02.2021 due to default of the Concessionaire. Thereafter, the balance work was awarded to M/s. Kalthia Engineering Construction Limited in Joint Venture (JV) with Monte Carlo on 17.02.2021 and anticipated date of completion is 30.06.2023.

(c) The reasons for delay in Package1 Bhavnagar to Talaja are as follows: -

- (i) Issues of land acquisition.
- (ii) Financial Crisis of Concessionaire and lack of adequate support from bank.
- (iii) COVID-19 situation from March'2020.
- (iv) Long monsoon durations lead to obstructions in civil work.

A Settlement Agreement was signed between the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the Concessionaire. As per settlement agreement, milestones have been fixed and the penalties shall be imposed accordingly.

The reasons for delay in Package 2-Talaja to Mahuva are as follows: -

- (i) Termination and re-award of work.
- (ii) Issues of land acquisition.
- (iii) Tautae Cylcone in May-2021 and long monsoon durations.

Relevant indices have been freezed as on date and penalty shall be calculated after finalization of extension of time to Contractor.
