

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-405
ANSWERED ON-06/12/2023

CAG OBSERVATION ON BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA

405. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) raised concerns about the cost overruns in the Bharatmala Pariyojana with its sanctioned budget surpassing the approved budget;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with remedial steps that Government has taken in this regard;
- (c) the details of total funds allocated, sanctioned, and utilised for Bharatmala Pariyojana since its inception, year-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the CAG raised concerns about the diversion of funds from other schemes to Bharatmala Pariyojana; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with remedial steps Government has taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has made observation about the increase in cost of the Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I (BPP-I).

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Phase 1 of Bharatmala Pariyojana entailing development of 34,800 km of National Highway corridors with the total outlay of Rs. 5.35 lakh Cr in 2017. This was based on normative cost and not on the basis of Detailed Project Report(DPRs) of the national highways proposed under Bharatmala Pariyojana. DPRs were prepared subsequently and approval of Competent Authority was obtained for each project. The difference in actual project cost and normative cost under Bharatmala Pariyojana is due to increase in cost of raw material, increased land acquisition cost, construction of high speed corridors and increase in GST rates etc.

(c) As on 31st October 2023, the total expenditure is about Rs 4.10 Lakh Crore.

(d) & (e) CAG has made certain observations about the diversion of funds from other schemes to BPP-I. There has been no diversion of funds from other schemes in the execution of BPP-I. Certain BPP-I projects were earlier planned under other schemes of MoRT&H viz., Externally Aided Project(EAP), National Highways Original works NH(O), and SARDP scheme, which were subsequently prioritized under BPP-I as per the network planning.
