

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1076
ANSWERED ON – 31/07/2024

MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1076. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of damages to Highways and collapse of bridges on Highways due to rain this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to restore the Highways;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps for quality audit of NH related works to ensure that no bad quality works are done on Highways; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs).

Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The conditions of NHs including condition of bridges are assessed from time to time by the Ministry and its various executing agencies such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Public Works Departments (PWDs) / Road Construction Departments (RCDs) / Corporations of State Governments / Union Territories (UTs). The maintenance works on NHs are accordingly taken up from time to time to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition; such works also include rectification of deficiencies and damages caused due to various reasons, rehabilitation and strengthening of NHs, repair / rehabilitation / construction of bridges etc.

The Ministry has evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections including bridges through accountable maintenance agency.

The M&R of stretches of NHs, where Development works have commenced or Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contracts have been awarded, are the responsibility of the concerned Concessionaires/ Contractors till the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ the Concession Period. Similarly, for NHs stretches undertaken under TOT (Toll Operate and Transfer) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust), M&R responsibility lies with concerned Concessionaire till the end of the Concession Period.

For remaining NHs stretches, Ministry has taken policy decision to undertake maintenance works through contract maintenance, which is either Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), leaving no section of NHs without any accountable contractual maintenance agency.

State / Union Territory (UT) - wise details of reported damages that occurred on NHs during the current year, including damages due to severe floods and rain, are at Annexure.

There has been one incidence of collapse of bridge on NHs in the country due to flood / rain / cyclone during the current year – one Bailey Bridge on NH-37 (Irang Bailey Bridge) in the State of Manipur, for restoration of which a permanent 123 m span RCC 70R bridge has been constructed adjacently.

(c) and (d) All efforts are made to ensure that the NHs are constructed as per quality standards specified in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways / Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications and codes. To ensure the construction quality, Consultants (Authority's Engineer / Independent Engineer) are appointed by the Ministry and its executing agencies for day to day supervision of the works at site. Officials of NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, PWDs / RCDs/ Corporations of State Governments / UTs as well as Independent Third-Party Auditors undertake inspections time-to-time and ensure adherence of conformity of quality of materials used in construction as well as the work done by the Concessionaire / Contractor with stipulated requirements. Deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / supervision are brought to the notice of the Concessionaires / Contractors for taking up necessary corrective measures.

In addition, Ministry has also taken up the random non destructive quality check on NHs through Mobile Quality Control Van on Pilot basis in four states.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1076 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024 ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

State / UT - wise details of reported damages that occurred on NHs during the current year, including damages due to severe floods and rain: -

Sl. No.	State/UT	Length of Damaged NHs during 2024-25 (till Jun-24) (km)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4.71
2	Assam	58.51
3	Goa	0.15
4	Gujarat	9.56
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.60
6	Karnataka	64.37
7	Kerala	0.02
8	Madhya Pradesh	3.00
9	Maharashtra	12.70
10	Manipur	9.55
11	Meghalaya	88.97
12	Mizoram	67.26
13	Nagaland	3.07
14	Rajasthan	8.00
15	Sikkim	12.98
16	Tamil Nadu	0.30
17	Tripura	3.25
18	West Bengal	3.30
19	Jammu & Kashmir	0.05
