

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1860
ANSWERED ON -07/08/2024

WAYSIDE AMENITIES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1860. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to enhance travel experience for commuters and promote tourism, convenience, and safety along the National Highway (NH) network;
- (b) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is embarking on a significant initiative to integrate wayside amenities into the design of Highways across the Country;
- (c) whether NHAI's initiative also contributes in improving the quality of life in rural and remote areas connected by NHs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is consistently working with the objective of enhancing convenience & travel experience of commuters on National Highways / Expressways through continuous improvement / upgradation / development of National Highways and Expressways with safety measures as per prescribed norms. As regards promoting Tourism, during finalization of alignment of Greenfield NH/ Expressway, the factors such as proximity / connectivity to industrial nodes, tourist destinations are always taken into consideration so that NH passes either through or as near as possible from such tourist destinations.

(b) Yes Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) through its fully owned company 'National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML)' envision development of Wayside Amenities (WSA) at every 40 km to 60 km interval along the National Highways / Expressways from planning/design stage itself.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. Wherever National Highways are developed / upgraded particularly in rural and remote areas, locals are benefited through improved access to markets for transport of agriculture produce and locally made items/handicrafts etc. Further, employment opportunities for unskilled (labour) /semi-skilled activities in construction, operation & maintenance of National Highway works also increase. Appreciation in land cost also benefits farmers / land owners. Thus, all these aspects collectively contribute to improvement in quality of life.
