

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -104
ANSWERED ON – 04/12/2024

CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS

*104. SHRI CHUNNILAL GARASIYA:

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

- (a) the details of the tunnels that are likely to be constructed in the country in the coming years;
- (b) the details of the total length and cost of construction of these tunnels;
- (c) the details of tunnel projects that have been completed and the number of projects under construction during last three years; and
- (d) the role of tunnels in improving connectivity and reducing travel time, particularly in hilly areas of the country, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI
CHUNNILAL GARASIYA REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS.**

(a) to (c): The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. During the last 3 years, 15 tunnels covering 21.41 km length have been completed in 9 projects and 57 tunnels, covering 93.96 km length are under implementation in 37 projects on NHs in the country. Additionally, 3 tunnels, covering 9.68 km length have been approved in 3 projects for construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 1962 crore.

(d) Tunnels on NHs are constructed to avoid passage through snow bound areas, eco-sensitive areas, pass below water bodies or congested areas, etc. The fundamental objective of road tunnel is to ensure safe transit of the road traffic in difficult terrain. Tunnels play a crucial role in enhancing connectivity and reducing travel time, especially in the hilly regions of the country by providing a safer alternative to treacherous mountain passes, resulting in lesser vehicle operating cost and emission of greenhouse gases. Tunnels are less affected by adverse weather conditions like heavy snow, or fog, ensuring more reliable travel round the year in hilly terrain.
