

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -253
ANSWERED ON – 18/12/2024

DEATH BY NEGLIGENCE DUE TO UNDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

*253. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the incident where three men died after their car, guided by Google Maps, fell from an under-construction bridge in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the steps taken by Government and response from both the authorities and Google;
- (c) the measures implemented to ensure regular inspection, maintenance and safety of under-construction or damaged infrastructure to prevent future accidents; and
- (d) whether Government is considering any changes to the legal framework regarding negligence in infrastructure projects and the responsibility of digital navigation services in guiding users?

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. 253 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY
RAUT REGARDING DEATH BY NEGLIGENCE DUE TO UNDER CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS.**

(a) and (b): The Government in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country including the bridge and structures thereon. The road stretch where three men died after their car fell from an incomplete bridge cum approaches in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh is a village road under the jurisdiction of State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

It has been informed by the State Government that FIRs were filed against Google, concerned Engineers of State Government, unknown villagers who had damaged the wall on the carriageway of bridge leading to the accident. Subsequently, Google has removed the route through the incomplete bridge from the Google map.

(c) All efforts are made to ensure that the NHs including bridges and structures thereon are constructed as per standards specified in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways / Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications and codes including work zone safety standards.

The Government appoints Authority Engineer (AE) / Independent Engineer (IE) for supervision of these projects taken up through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode and Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) / Build Operate Transfer (BOT) (Toll) / BOT (Annuity) modes including ensuring adherence to stipulated work zone safety standards as per extant policies. Officials of executing agencies, such as National Highways Authority of India, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Border Roads Organisation, Public Works Departments/ Road Construction Departments/ Corporations of State Governments/ Union Territories, the project implementation units also undertake inspections from time to time towards ensuring adherence to these provisions. Deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / supervision are brought to the notice of the Concessionaires / Contractors for taking up necessary corrective measures.

Indian Roads Congress (IRC) publication IRC:SP-55 stipulates guidelines on Traffic Management in work zone for providing safety for road users and workers and to provide clear and positive guidance to road users.

The Government vide Policy letter dated 16.03.2023 made it mandatory to ensure safety in Road Construction Zones in NH projects. The policy also provides for CCTV surveillance of major structure construction sites.

Further, Policy letter dated 12.12.2022 was issued for identification and rectification of bridges in severely damaged and precarious conditions on NHs including taking up of immediate remedial measures such as repair and rehabilitation measures, immediate traffic diversion arrangements with or without bailey bridges, diversion of traffic through other alternative routes, taking up of reconstruction of bridges, imposition of load / vehicle/ speed restrictions, installation of traffic calming/ road safety measures including cautionary signs, lighting, etc.

(d) The Central Government vide Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 has added a new Section 215(B) in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 regarding constitution of a National Road Safety Board for rendering advice to the Central Government as well as State Governments on all aspects pertaining to road safety and traffic management including formulation of standards for road safety, road infrastructure, registration and licensing of motor vehicles, sustainable utilization of road transport eco-system, provision of new vehicle technology, safety of vulnerable road users, educating and sensitizing drivers and other road users, etc., including safety aspects on projects for development of NHs/ roads and structures/ bridges thereon.
