

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-258
ANSWERED ON-27/11/2024

MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

258. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

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

- (a) the number of road accidents that have been reported on National Highways during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government observed poor maintenance of National Highways by the concerned agencies and operators, if so, the actions taken by Government against them;
- (c) the standards or benchmarks for the maintenance of National Highways, and how frequently are these reviewed; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce a new monitoring system to improve the maintenance of National Highways?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Government publishes report titled “Road Accidents in India” annually based on data received from Police Departments of States/UTs. As per the report, the total number of road accidents on National Highways (including National Expressways) from calendar year 2018 to 2022 is given in the table below :-

Year	No. of Road Accidents
2018	1,44,221
2019	1,41,057
2020	1,19,615
2021	1,28,825
2022	1,51,997

(b) The maintenance of National Highways is carried out by the Concessionaire/ Contractor as per the provisions of the Contract Agreement. The Contract Agreement provides for penalties/ damages in case of non-compliance. As per information received from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), penalties have been imposed, and an amount of Rs. 83.02 Cr. has been recovered for poor maintenance of roads.

(c) The standards and benchmarks for the maintenance of National Highways are defined by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications and the Central Government. These standards cover various aspects such as pavement quality, road markings, signages, drainage systems and safety features to ensure smooth and safe travel for users. The standards are reviewed periodically based on advancements in technology, climatic conditions, traffic growth and stakeholders' feedback.

(d) For Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) projects, the maintenance activities are taken up by the Contractor within specified timelines as per Schedule - E of the Contract Agreement. For Build Operate Transfer (BOT)/ Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) projects, the maintenance activities are taken up by the Concessionaire within specified timelines as per Schedule - K of the Concessionaire Agreement. Further, the projects where the Defect Liability Period (DLP) is completed, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of such projects are taken up under Short Term Maintenance Contracts (STMC) and Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC) mode as per site condition.

NHAI has also introduced NHAI One App to monitor the maintenance of NHs and improvement of O&M activities. Further, survey is conducted periodically to assess the pavement condition for improvement and Priority Maintenance of National Highways.
