

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION – 272
ANSWERED ON – 27/11/2024

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUISITION OF WATER BODIES FOR ROAD PROJECTS

272 SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism for the award of compensation for the acquisition of water bodies for Road Projects, the details thereof;
- (b) whether compensation is paid to the State Government concerned or to the Local Bodies concerned under which the water bodies lie, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to create new water bodies as compensation for the ones acquired to maintain ecological and ground water balance, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- a) Yes Sir. The Government makes best efforts to avoid water bodies while finalizing alignments in general. In case an alignment cannot be modified to bypass a water body, the compensation is awarded for the acquisition of the water body for National Highways (NH) road projects as per the First Schedule to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013.
- b) Yes Sir. The compensation is paid to the landholders, whether they are the State Government or the Local Bodies. However, compensation to Local Bodies comprises compensation against land as well as structures, including water bodies, as per the First Schedule of RFCTLARR Act, 2013. Compensation to the State Government is against the structure only.
- c & d) Compensation against damages or acquisition of water bodies is included under the compensation on account of structures. However, the Government promotes construction of water bodies as *Amrit Sarovars* for promotion of water conservation whereby the landholders are encouraged to allow excavation of earth upto an agreed depth without any cost to the landholders.
