

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 284

ANSWERED ON 26/03/2025

DUST CONTROL MEASURES

***284.** DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) the number of road construction projects penalized or suspended for failing to implement the dust control measures during the last three years and the reason for widespread reported violations, State-wise detail thereof;
- (b) the reason for non-enforcement of stringent dust control measures at construction sites despite acknowledged health and environment hazards;
- (c) the reason for not mandating the use of advanced dust suppression technologies, such as green barriers, at all major road construction projects; and
- (d) whether Government has plans to address the health risks posed to workers and nearby residents from prolonged exposure to dust during road construction projects, if so, 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. 284 ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025 ASKED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL REGARDING DUST CONTROL MEASURES

(a) to (d) Enforcement of environmental laws and regulation of activities such as dust control primarily falls within the jurisdiction of Pollution Control Boards and other local bodies etc. of respective States/Union Territories (UTs). On the basis of information received from the implementing agencies of National Highway (NH) projects, State/ UT-wise list of projects where concessionaires/ contractors have been penalised or suspended by State/ UT Pollution Control Boards for failing to implement the dust control measures in NH / Expressway projects during the last three years are annexed.

The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has made obligatory provisions in the contract for construction of NH/ Expressway for safeguarding the environment according to applicable laws. According to the provisions of the agreement, the contractors / concessionaires are obligated to conduct its activities related to works in such a manner so as to comply with environmental requirements which includes, inter alia, all the conditions required to be satisfied under the environmental clearances and applicable law and assume full responsibility for measures which are required to be taken to ensure such compliance.

The contractors/ concessionaires are obligated to obtain applicable permits which inter alia include permission of the State Government for extraction of boulders from quarry and for drawing water from river/reservoir; permission of Village Panchayats and Pollution Control Boards for installation of crushers and setting up asphalt plant; clearance of Pollution Control Board for setting up batching plant; permission of Village Panchayats and State Government for borrow earth, etc.

The extant policy of the Government for issuing permits at various levels are inter alia intended at addressing potential health hazards of workers and nearby residents.

Various dust control measures are used in NHs projects for minimizing adverse impacts to the communities at close proximity to the project highway and ensuring occupational health and safety of the workforce, such as, sprinkling water along the haul roads and the worksites; dampening/ covering stockpile materials during dry and windy weather; covering of dumpers with tarpaulins while transporting construction materials; sweeping roads of casting yards; etc. For minimising health risks to nearby settlements, minimum siting distance as per MoEF&CC norms from nearby habitation, schools, colleges, temples, hospitals, courts and tourist spots is ensured during installation of Hot Mix Plants.

Further, advanced dust suppression techniques, such as, using anti-smog gun machines/ fog guns; spraying chemicals/dust-suppressing foams; installing misting systems, membrane covering for crushers and GI covering over conveyors, plantation of green belts/ barrier comprising of 2-3 rows of tall trees along the periphery of crushers, provision of dust separator, dust conditioner and baghouse filter for Hot Mix Plants, use of cyclone systems to collect dust at one place in tunnel sites, etc., are also used in construction of NHs.

ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 284 ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025 ASKED BY DR. ASHOK
KUMAR MITTAL REGARDING DUST CONTROL MEASURES**

State/ UT-wise list of projects where concessionaires/ contractors have been penalised or suspended by State/ UT Pollution Control Boards for failing to implement the dust control measures in NH / Expressway projects during the last three years:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Name of the Project	Length (In km)	Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1	Haryana	8- Laning of Section of NH-1 (New NH-44) From Mukarba Chowk at km 15.500 to Panipat at km 86.000 on BOT (Toll) basis in the State of Haryana	70.5	804.67
2	Haryana	Dwarka Expressway- DL/HR Border-Start of ROB Gurugram NH-248BB (pkg 3) (N/03001/01003/HR)	10.2	2228.00
3	Haryana	Dwarka Expressway - RoB to NH-8 – SPR Intersection NH-248BB (pkg 4) (N/03001/01004/HR)	8.76	1859.00
4	Delhi	UER-II PKG-1 NH-344M [NH-1 near village Bakoli to Karala-Kanjhawala Road] (N/02001/19002/DL)	15.7	2171.80
5	Delhi	UER-II PKG-2 NH-344M [Karala - Kanjhawala Road to Nangloi to Najafgarh - Nangloi Road] (N/02001/19003/DL)	13.45	1894.96
6	Delhi	UER-II PKG-3 NH-344M [Najafgarh to Nangloi Road] (N/02001/19004/DL)	9.66	1069.27
7	Delhi	UER-II PKG-5 NH-344N [Spur to Bahadurgarh Bypass] (N/02001/19006/DL)	7.3	801.46
8	Delhi/Haryana	Conversion of Delhi -Gurgaon section of NH-48 into access controlled 8/6 lane Highway from Km. 14.300 to Km. 42.000 (N/02001/01009/HR)	27.7	555.00
9	Uttar Pradesh	Improvement and Up-gradation of NH-709A Garhmukteshwar (Chainage 83.200 of NH-24) to Meerut (Chainage 9.860 of NH-235) including connector to NH-119 Package-XII in Uttar Pradesh.	50.254	954.90
