

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2035
ANSWERED ON-06/08/2025

ISSUE OF DEBRIS UNDER BRIDGE

2035. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of **Road Transport and Highways** be pleased to state:

- (a) steps taken by Government in the last few years to address the issue of debris under bridges on national highways;
- (b) whether there is any national or State-level initiative in place aimed at ensuring the removal of debris from under bridges after construction; and
- (c) future plans or policies that are being proposed to avoid this issue and how does the Ministry intend to ensure consistent cleaning practices for bridges on national highways?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). Maintenance of NHs including removal of debris under bridges after construction is a continuous process. NHs are maintained through various executing agencies. The maintenance works on NHs are accordingly taken up from time to time to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition. Such works also include removal of debris under bridge after construction.

The Government has evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections including bridges through accountable maintenance agency. The M&R of stretches of NHs, where Development works have commenced or Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contracts have been awarded, are the responsibility of the concerned Concessionaires/ Contractors till the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ the Concession Period. Similarly, for NHs stretches undertaken under TOT (Toll Operate and Transfer) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust), M&R responsibility lies with concerned Concessionaire till the end of the Concession Period.

For remaining NHs stretches, a policy decision has been taken to undertake maintenance works through contract maintenance, which is either Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), leaving no section of NHs without any accountable contractual maintenance agency.
