

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3142
ANSWERED ON - 20/08/2025

HIGHWAY UPGRADES AND TOLL IMPACT IN RURAL AREAS

3142. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

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

- (a) steps to upgrade feeder routes and regional highways in rural districts to reduce congestion and improve connectivity;
- (b) mechanisms to assess and mitigate the impact of toll hikes on rural commuters and transporters in agrarian areas; and
- (c) status of wayside amenities along national highways in Gujarat and how many of the fifty six approved sites are completed in rural and semi-urban districts?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Government in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for construction and development of National Highways. Development of State Highways and Feeder Routes within the State are taken up by the respective State Governments as per the requirement. The National Highways are generally planned keeping in view various parameters like traffic density, connectivity to important cities, economic zones, logistic hubs, ports, airports, railway stations, industrial clusters, tourist/ religious sites, etc.

(b) User fee discounts and monthly passes are available to National Highways users as per the provisions of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Additionally, the NH Fee Rules already include provisions that exempt users of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, tractors, combine harvesters, and animal-drawn vehicles from paying user fees at fee plaza on National Highways, thereby benefiting rural highway users. Further, the Government has introduced a provision for an Annual Pass in the National Highway Fee Rules, 2008, for non-commercial cars, jeeps, and vans, effective from 15th August 2025, across the country. According to this provision, a person owning a mechanical vehicle for non-commercial purpose, having a valid and functional FASTag, shall be eligible to obtain a pass on payment of fee of rupees three thousand which shall be valid for one year or for two hundred crossings through any fee plaza on a national highway, whichever is earlier. The Annual Pass scheme aims to reduce frequent recharge of FASTag & user fee burden on non-commercial vehicle (cars, jeeps, and van) users.

(c) As on date, 46 Wayside Amenities have been awarded in the State of Gujarat along National Highways/Expressways out of which 09 have been made operational.
