

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-410
ANSWERED ON-23/07/2025

NH-66 ROAD COLLAPSE IN KERALA

410. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) the key findings of the probe into the NH-66 road collapse in Kerala, particularly on quality checks, material standards and geotechnical failures;
- (b) whether any NHAI officials have been held accountable for lapses that led to the collapse, if so, the action taken thereof;
- (c) the principal and sub-contractors involved and original project cost as per the awarded contract;
- (d) whether any companies have been blacklisted over the incident, the details thereof;
- (e) the total loss incurred in the incident; and
- (f) timeline for the reconstruction of the collapsed roads and deadline for the completion of the entire stretch of NH 66 in Kerala?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has constituted a team of Experts [Dr. Anil Dixit (PhD, IIT-Delhi); Dr. Jimmy Thomas (PhD, IIT-Kanpur); Dr. K Mohan Krishna (PhD, IIT-Gandhinagar)] under the supervision of a Retired Professor from IIT-Delhi, Shri G.V. Rao to analyse the failure and recommend remedial measures.

Expert team submitted the final report on 03.07.2025 regarding failure of Embankment and Retaining Structures in Km. 276.78 and Km. 277.160 of the project (Kooriyad).

Further, NHAI constituted on 24.05.2025 an Expert Committee comprising of a Senior CRRI Scientist (Retd.), an Associate Prof. from IIT-Palakkad, and the Deputy Director General from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to assess other potentially vulnerable locations of Reinforced Soil (RS) Walls and Slope Protection Works in 17 ongoing projects on NH-66 in Kerala.

Expert Committee visited the entire stretch of NH-66 in Kerala between 11.06.2025 to 14.07.2025 to assess the adequacy of the protection methodologies adopted/being adopted/ proposed to be adopted for slopes/embankments and other vulnerable locations and to suggest necessary improvements. Report of the committee is awaited.

(b) The Project Director, NHAI has been placed under suspension and the services of Site Engineer working on the project have been terminated.

(c) The work was awarded on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) to M/s KNR Ramanattukara Infra Pvt. Ltd promoted by M/s KNR Construction Limited at a cost of Rs.2367 Crore.

(d) NHAI suspended the Concessionaire & its Promoters, M/s KNR Constructions, Hyderabad from participating in future bids for one month and Show Cause Notice to levy monetary penalty (Rs.11.8 Crore) as well as debarment upto 01 year has been issued. In addition, NHAI suspended the Independent Engineer, M/s Highway Engineering Consultant, Bhopal from participating in future bids and Show Cause Notice to levy monetary penalty (Rs.20 Lakh) as well as debarment upto 01 year. In addition, Team Leader of the Independent Engineer was also suspended.

(e) A new flyover at costing approx. Rs. 80 Crore has been proposed by the concessionaire at his own cost.

(f) The reconstruction in project is scheduled for completion by February 2026. The rectification in the entire stretch of NH-66 in Kerala is scheduled for completion by May 2026.
