

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-431
ANSWERED ON-23/07/2025

CRACKS IN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 66 (NH 66) IN KERALA

431. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any action on several sections of National Highway 66 (NH 66) currently under construction or being widened across Kerala that have developed cracks and partially collapsed in recent days;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the NHAI is using any modern technology, especially in areas where construction over wetland or unstable soil and other coastal areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by NHAI on companies responsible for the collapsed stretches of NH 66 throughout Kerala, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. An Expert Committee constituted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) inspected 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 including the sections, where cracks and damages have occurred recently. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(c) & (d) For construction of National Highway, latest guidelines, standards & specifications of Indian Road Congress (IRC) are prescribed, which uses /specifies modern technologies.

(e) The details are annexed.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 431 ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025 ASKED BY SHRI HARIS BEERAN REGARDING CRACKS IN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 66 (NH 66) IN KERALA.

Sr. No	Details of collapse/Cracks	Action Taken
1	Incident of soil nailing collapse in Ch. 58+035 to Ch. 58+100 (RHS) in Chengala-Neeleshwaram Section of NH-66. Moreover, cracks in Main Carriageway (MCW) and Service Road (SR) has been observed at many locations along the project reaches.	Show cause notice issued to Concessionaire and its promoter M/s. Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd. for debarment upto 1 year or completion of rectification work, whichever is later + penalty of 5% of Current value of failed work or 0.5% of Contract value of whole work whichever is more, besides temporarily suspending them from participating in ongoing/future bids of NHAI for one month or till they submit remedial measures with proper studies/demonstrate such failures do not repeat.
2	Collapse of retaining wall at Kuriad in Ch. 276+780 and 277+160 (LHS) in Main Carriage Way in the stretch of Ramanattukara Junction to start of Valanchery Bypass section of NH-66.	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 Cr.) 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 Project Director of NHAI is suspended and services of site Engineer is terminated.
3	4 nos. of girder collapsed in Span P17-P18 (RHS) in Six Lane of Highway from Thuravoor (Design Ch. 379+612) to Paravoor (Design Ch. 417+000) section of new NH-66 (old NH-47) in the state of Kerala on EPC mode under Bharatmala Pariyojana.	Representative of consultant and contractor was suspended and applicable penalty of Rs. 15.4 Lakh imposed to the contractor.
4	Failure/Collapse of scaffolding of Minor Bridge (under construction) at Km.Ch. 497+370(RHS) has occurred in the Start of Kollam Bypass to Kadambattukonam Project.	Penalty of Rs. 9.55 Lakhs has been imposed on Concessionaire and Concessionaire has terminated the service of the Engineer responsible.
