

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-37
ANSWERED ON-03/12/2025

DELAY IN HIGHWAY PROJECTS

37. Dr. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the reasons behind significant delays in highway projects worth several lakh crore rupees, despite ambitious Government targets and plans;
- (b) how the Ministry addresses recurring issues such as land acquisition bottlenecks, contractor-related complications and delayed statutory clearances that hamper highway construction timelines;
- (c) actions taken against contractors and officials responsible for repeated infrastructure failures, including poor road quality and damage caused by rains, along with details of blacklisting or penalties imposed; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve transparency and public accountability in highway projects beyond recent QR code initiatives, especially in ensuring timely completion and quality maintenance of roads?

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. 37 ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025 ASKED BY Dr. ASHOK
KUMAR MITTAL REGARDING 'DELAY IN HIGHWAY PROJECTS'

(a) The primary reasons for delay in National Highway (NH) projects are issues / bottlenecks relating to land acquisition, statutory clearances / permissions, utility shifting, encroachment removal, law & order issues, financial crunch affecting implementation capacity of Concessionaire / Contractor, poor performance of Contractor / Concessionaire, and Force Majeure events such as Covid-19 pandemic, cloudburst etc.

(b) To overcome these challenges and expedite project execution, the Government has undertaken various initiatives. These include streamlining and expediting land acquisition using "Bhoomirashi" portal and GIS-based Land Acquisition Plan, revamping "Parivesh" Portal through Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to facilitate faster forest and environmental clearances, enabling online approval of General Arrangement of Drawings (GAD) of Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROB/RUB) from the Railways, and leveraging the mechanism of review and resolution of bottlenecks / hindrances in ongoing projects, in active collaboration with the State Governments and other stakeholders. Government has also launched a web portal for Railway related clearances with define timelines for various approvals.

Government has put in place a strong framework using multiple mechanisms for monitoring project progress and contractor inefficiencies. Regular review meetings are conducted at various levels with stakeholders to assess project progress, and critical projects, such as those delayed by more than three years or pending for award / appointment.

Many State Governments conduct coordination meetings led by the Chief Secretary to resolve issues affecting project execution. Projects where issues remain unresolved are escalated for further review through the Project Monitoring Group and also through "PRAGATI".

As a result of the above, no of projects delayed by more than 3 years were reduced from 152 as on 01.04.2024 to 85 as on 30.11.2025.

(c) The details of actions taken against contractors/ concessionaires / consultants / officials during last three years due to poor quality / infrastructure failure due to various reasons, inter-alia, including debarring from participating in NH works, penalties, etc., is as under:

| Contractor / Concessionaire | | | Consultant | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| No. of Firms Against Whom Penalty Levied | Monetary Penalty (Rs. Crore) | No. of Firms Debarred / Terminated / Suspended | No. of Firms Against Whom Penalty Levied | Monetary Penalty (Rs. Cr.) | No. of Firms Debarred / Terminated / Suspended | No. of Key Personnel Suspended / Debarred |
| 55 | 298 | 22 | 27 | 4 | 28 | 18 |

Further, 11 officers were removed from service on account of performance assessment and other disciplinary actions taken on 11 officers.

(d) The Government has initiated monitoring of quality maintenance including defect rectification under Defect Liability Period (DLP) in NHs projects through mobile based application NHA1 One / Tatpar. This app is used by Field officers / Engineers / Contractors / Concessionaires directly from onsite, through digital reporting of daily and monthly defects, submission of geo-tagged and time-stamped photos for inspections and digital uploading of test results.

Mandatory assessments of road conditions through Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) before start of work, before issue of completion certificate and thereafter at regular intervals of six months after completion of the work, thereby enabling quality assessment of NHs at regular intervals for (a) ensuring the maintenance during Concession period / DLP and (b) prioritizing maintenance requirements to maintain NHs in traffic worthy condition. Further revamping of NSV system for road condition assessment using analytics and enforcement of contractual provisions during Operation and Maintenance (O&M) through dedicated central cell

Further, the Government has established system of receiving complaints through Public Grievance Portal, mobile based “Rajmarg Yatra” app for citizen feedback regarding issues / grievances related to NHs including the quality and maintenance issues. Further, for complaints received from various Social Media Platforms including complaints received from other sources about various issues concerning NHs including issues related to quality of construction / maintenance, the Government has set up an internal mechanism to take cognizance of these complaints through web portal towards ensuring that necessary corrective actions are taken up by the Officials / Concessionaires / Contractors for the NHs projects.
