

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1219
ANSWERED ON –10/12/2025

BANDIPORA-LOLAB ROAD CONSTRUCTION

1219. SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step regarding the long-pending demand for construction of the Bandipora-Lolab road and four-laning of Sangrama-Chowkibal via Sopore-Handwara;
- (b) whether the proposal has been examined under centrally sponsored schemes such as CRIF, NHIDCL, Bharatmala or others;
- (c) the steps being taken to integrate this road with other pending regional link roads and tunnels, prioritisation status and details of actions so far; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to declare the Mughal Road as an all-weather National Highway, allocate funds for maintenance and upgradation and ensure smooth connectivity for Poonch, Rajouri, along with the timeframe for permanent solutions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) The Government receives proposals from various State Governments / Union Territories (UTs), including from the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, from time to time, for declaration / upgradation of State Roads, including State Highways (SHs), as new NHs. Decisions are taken to notify State Roads as NHs from time to time based on the broad principles of declaration of NHs, requirement of connectivity, traffic density and synergy with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

There is no direct NH connectivity between Bandipora and Lolab. Bandipora and Lolab are connected via State Road between Bandipora and Handwara, section of NH-701 connecting Handwara with Kupwara and a State road connecting Kupwara and Lolab.

Sangrama chowk is connected with Chowkibal via State road between Sangrama chowk and Handwara and thereafter via NH-701 between Handwara and Chowkibal. Status of projects on NH-701 connecting Baramullah with Tangdhar is annexed.

As per the approved criteria for approval of State road projects and allocation of funds under the CRIF Act, 2000, the Government considers finalization of State / UT roads projects submitted by State/ UT governments under CRIF scheme based on the current year accrual and outstanding committed liabilities of already sanctioned works i.e. Bank of Sanction (BOS). The extant policy inter-alia stipulates that total cost of the schemes to be approved shall be limited to the BOS, which shall be four times of the annual allocation/ current year accrual for hill states and North-East states. As on 30.11.2025, the BOS of the approved UT road projects for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is about ₹1,370.37 crore against the current year accrual of ₹118.74 crore.

The Highway starting from its junction with NH-1 near Narbal connecting Mangam, Dodhpathri, Yousmarg, Pakherpora, Kellar, Shopian, Bafliaz and terminating at its junction with NH-144A near Surankote, has been declared as NH-701A on 02.02.2024. Towns of Poonch and Rajouri are connected by NH-144A.

Routine and periodic maintenance of NH-701A has been taken up by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) through funds allocated by this Ministry.

Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. Government undertakes Feasibility Study/ Detailed Project Report (DPR) for improvement/widening/construction of NHs in the country including UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Decision for project implementation are taken up from time to time based on the outcome of DPR, requirement of connectivity, traffic density and synergy with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1219 FOR ANSWER FOR 10.12.2025 ASKED BY SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN REGARDING BANDIPORA-LOLAB ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Status of projects on NH-701 connecting Barmullah with Tangdhar

Sr. No.	Stretch	Development work	Remarks
1	Baramulla to Handwara	RKCT-Package 1 -Upgradation to 2L+PS	Physical progress 25.40%
2	Handwara to Kupwara		
3	Kupwara to Trehgam		
4	Trehgam to Chowkibal	RKCT-Package 2 – Upgradation to 2L+PS	Included in Annual Plan of 2025-26
5	Chowkibal to Tangdhar		
