

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1383
ANSWERED ON – 11/02/2026

ROADMAP TO TIMELY PROJECT DELIVERY

1383. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

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

(a) what are the systemic flaws in the country's Road/Highways project execution ecosystem that have led to persistent delays and how might Government's target of reducing delayed projects to 60 projects by March, 2026 address or exacerbate these underlying issues; and

(b) whether Government's emphasis on reducing delayed projects influence the risk calculus of private investors, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure and renewable energy and the potential implications for investment flows and economic growth?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) and (b) The Government in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs).

The primary reasons for delay in 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.

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 expedite 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 defined timelines for various approvals.

The 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, no. of projects delayed by more than 3 years has come down from 152 in April 2024 to 85 in end-January, 2026.

The efforts by the Government to eliminate causes of delay in any project implementation substantially reduces the risk, and enables a reduction in risk premium in financing of highway projects and helps in attracting more investment.
