

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 595
ANSWERED ON – 04/02/2026

DELAY IN LONG TUNNEL PROJECTS

595. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) number of tunnel projects over 1.5 km which are under preparation, approval and implementation stage as on date, State-wise;
- (b) number of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) which were returned or delayed in last five years due to missing geo-technical investigations or incomplete checklists;
- (c) the average time lost in appraisal because of such delays; and
- (d) the list of projects delayed due to DPR deficiencies, with duration of delay and reasons for delay?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) The Government in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. State/Union Territory (UT)-wise numbers of projects on NHs with tunnel lengths exceeding 1.5 km, which are at various stages of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and implementation are annexed.

Examination of DPRs is undertaken in accordance with the prescribed Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards and government directives. After critical review of recent incidents of tunnel collapse during construction, to prevent recurrences, comprehensive guidelines for 'Tunnel Alignment Studies' and 'Prevention and Mitigation of Tunnel Collapses' have been issued, establishing a comprehensive and systematic approach for detailed geological and

geotechnical investigations. The examination of DPRs to ensure technical soundness and long-term sustainability is an integral part of project appraisal and approval in execution of tunnel projects.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595 ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026 ASKED BY SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN REGARDING 'DELAY IN LONG TUNNEL PROJECTS'

State / UT – wise numbers of NH projects with tunnel lengths exceeding 1.5 km, which are at various stages of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and implementation: -

Sl. No.	State / UT	Number of Projects at DPR Stage	Number of Projects at Implementation Stage
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0
3	Assam	1	0
4	Chhattisgarh	0	1
5	Delhi	1	0
6	Himachal Pradesh	4	4
7	Jammu & Kashmir	5	4
8	Karnataka	1	0
9	Kerala	1	0
10	Ladakh	3	0
11	Maharashtra	2	0
12	Mizoram	0	1
13	Odisha	0	1
14	Rajasthan	0	1
15	Uttarakhand	5	1
	Total	27	14
