

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2034
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2026

POOR QUALITY OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

2034. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

Will the Minister of Road Transport and Highways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of reports of premature failures of National Highways attributed to poor design, inadequate supervision and excessive subcontracting;
- (b) whether third-party quality audits are mandatory for all National Highway projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of contractors, consultants or concessionaires penalised, blacklisted or debarred for poor workmanship during the last five years;
- (d) the amount recovered from contractors as compensation for defective road construction; and
- (e) the measures taken to strengthen quality control and ensure accountability in highway construction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (e) State / Union Territory (UT) – wise details of projects involving the collapses / failures or major deficiencies in National Highways (NHs) on account of various factors including poor workmanship, poor design, inadequate supervision etc. and action taken against Contractors/ Concessionaires/ Authority's Engineer/ Independent Engineer (AE/IE) etc. including the penalties levied / penal action taken during the last five years and current year is annexed. Action against defaulting agencies has been taken as per the provisions of the Contract/ Concession agreement in case of collapses/ failures/ deficiencies, such as termination

of contract agreement, levying of penalties/ liquidated damages, debarment/ blacklisting, declaring as non-performers including declaring failure as "Catastrophic "etc.

All efforts are made to ensure that the NHs are constructed as per stipulated quality standards specified in the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications and codes. To ensure that highway construction adheres to stipulated quality standards, Consultants, Authority Engineers/Independent Engineers (AEs/IEs) are appointed by the executing agencies for day-to-day supervision of works at site. Officials of executing agencies undertake inspections from time to time and ensure adherence of conformity of quality of the work done by the Concessionaire/ Contractors with stipulated requirements.

Third-Party Quality Auditors are deployed for independent quality audits of NH works on a case-to-case basis during various phases of project construction to ensure adherence of conformity of quality of the work done by the Concessionaires / Contractors with stipulated requirements. Deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / supervision are brought to the notice of the Concessionaires / Contractors for taking up necessary corrective measures.

The Government has implemented the following monitoring systems and initiatives for strengthening quality control and ensuring accountability: -

- i. Adoption of Automated & Intelligent /Machine-aided Construction (AI-MC) in NH projects;
- ii. Assessments of road conditions through Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) mandated for all NHs and Expressway works at the time of completion and every six months thereafter, which is monitored through electronic platform. NSV system for road condition assessment has been revamped using analytics for enforcement of contractual provisions during Operation and Maintenance (O&M) through dedicated central cell;
- iii. Operationalization of a centralized system called NHAI One App for Monitoring and rectification of highway defects which enables geo-tagging of defects along with photographs;
- iv. Analysis of High-Resolution Imagery collected from Drone Surveys in Drone Analytics Monitoring System (DAMS) integrated with Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning

algorithms for periodic evaluation of progress and quality of ongoing NHs works from time to time;

v. Deployment of Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs) equipped with Non-Destructive Testing Equipment on pilot basis in four States, namely in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha and Karnataka, for diagnostic assessment of overall health and quality of works from time to time during project implementation phases.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2034 ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026 ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI REGARDING POOR QUALITY OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

State / Union Territory (UT) – wise details of projects involving the collapses / failures or major deficiencies in National Highways (NHs) on account of various factors including poor workmanship, poor design, inadequate supervision etc. and action taken against Contractors/ Concessionaires/ AE/IE etc. including penalties levied / penal action taken during the last five years and current year:

State	Year	No. of projects	Penalty Imposed	Other penal action
Andhra Pradesh	2021	1	Rs. 40.00 lakh on IE Rs. 3.0 Cr on contractor	
Arunachal Pradesh	2024	1	5% of Contract value on Contractor	
Bihar	2022	2		Key personnel of Contractor and AE/IE suspended
	2023	2	Rs. 25 Cr on Contractor	Key personnel of Contractor and AE/IE suspended
	2024	1		Key personnel of Contractor suspended
Himachal Pradesh	2022	1		Rectification done at Contractors own cost
Haryana	2021	1	Rs. 6.67 cr on Contractor & Rs. 20 Lakhs on AE	Contractor and AE blacklisted for 3 months
	2024	2	Total Rs. 90 lakhs on Contractors	Rectification done at Contractor's own cost
Jammu & Kashmir	2022	1	1% of project cost on EPC Contractor	Contractor blacklisted
Gujarat	2025	1	Rs. 2.80 cr. on Contractor	
Karnataka	2024	1		Contractor debarred for 1 month
	2025	1		Rectification done at Contractor's own cost
Kerala	2024	1		Rectification done at Contracto'rs own cost
	2025	7	Total Rs. 31.245 Cr on Contractors and Rs. 5 lakhs on IE	Key personnel of Contractor and AE/IE suspended in 1 project Contractor and AE/IE debarred in 2 projects

State	Year	No. of projects	Penalty Imposed	Other penal action
Madhya Pradesh	2025	2	Rs. 119 Cr on Contractor	
Maharashtra	2021	1		Debarment of Contractor for 9 months
	2024	4	Rs. 3.94 Cr in total on Contractors Penalty of Rs. 20 lakhs on AE	Key Personnel of Contractor and AE suspended in 2 nos. projects
	2026	2	Rs. 75 lakhs on Contractor and Rs. 12.50 lakhs on AE	
Telangana	2022	1	Rs. 134.78 Cr on Contractor	
Tamil Nadu	2021	1	Rs. 3.0 Cr on Contractor	
	2023	1		Rectification done at Contractor's own cost
	2025	1	Rs. 7.21 Cr on contractors & Rs. 5 lakhs on IE	
Uttar Pradesh	2026	3		Termination of Contractor in 1 project
Uttarakhand	2023	1		Rectification done at Contractor's own cost
West Bengal	2024	2	Rs. 4.19 Cr on Contractors & Rs. 5 lakhs on AE/IE	
	2026	1		Toll has been suspended, Key Personnel of IE and Concessionaire suspended
Odisha	2022	1		Keep personnel of AE/IE and Contractor suspended
	2023	1	Rs. 5.30 Cr on Contractor and Rs. 25 lakhs on IE	Debarment of DPR consultant for 1 year
Assam	2024	1		Contractor debarred for 4 months
Meghalaya	2025	1	Rs. 20 lakhs on Contractor	
Delhi	2023	1		Rectification done at Contractor's own cost
