

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2810
ANSWERED ON – 12/08/2026

POOR QUALITY AND PREMATURE DAMAGE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

2810. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of reports regarding premature damage, potholes, cracks and poor quality of construction on several National Highways across the country;
- (b) the details of National Highway stretches found defective during quality inspections in the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the number of contractors/ concessionaires against whom action, including penalties, blacklisting or recovery of damages, has been initiated during the said period; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure accountability of contractors and improve the quality and durability of National Highway projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) State / Union Territory (UT) – wise details of projects involving major deficiencies including major collapses, damages, potholes, cracking or structural failures on National Highways (NHs) due to various factors including sub-standard quality of works, and action taken against Contractors/ Concessionaires/Authority Engineer/Independent Engineer (AE/IE) etc. including levying of penalties, blacklisting and recovery of damages etc. during the last three years and current year is annexed. Action against defaulting agencies have been taken as per the provisions of the Contract/ Concession agreement in case of deficiencies/ damages, such as termination of contract agreement, levying of penalties/ liquidated damages, debarment/ blacklisting, declaring as non-performers 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's Engineer/ Independent Engineers- AE/IE) 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. In addition, Third-Party Quality Auditors are deployed for independent quality audits of NH works on a case-to-case basis.

The Government has implemented the following technology-based monitoring systems and initiatives for improvement of quality and durability of NHs works and to ensure accountability of Contractors/ Concessionaires: -

- 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 (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2810 ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026 ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA REGARDING POOR QUALITY AND PREMATURE DAMAGE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

State / Union Territory (UT) – wise details of projects involving major deficiencies including major collapses, damages, potholes, cracking or structural failure on NHs due to various factors including sub-standard quality of works, and action taken against Contractors/ Concessionaires/ AE/IE etc. including levying of penalties, blacklisting and recovery of damages etc. during the last three years and current year:

State / UT	Projects involving major deficiencies including major collapses, damages, potholes, cracking or structural failure on NHs			
	Year	No. of projects	Penalty Imposed	Other penal action
Arunachal Pradesh	2024	1	5% of Contract value on Contractor	
Bihar	2023	2	Rs. 25 Cr on Contractor	Key personnel of Contractor and AE/IE suspended
	2024	1		Key personnel of Contractor suspended
Haryana	2024	2	Total Rs. 90 lakhs on Contractors	Rectification done at Contractors own cost
Gujarat	2025	1	Rs. 2.80 cr. on Contractor	
Karnataka	2024	1		Contractor debarred for 1 month
	2025	1		Rectification done at Contractors own cost
Kerala	2024	1		Rectification done at Contractors 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
Madhya Pradesh	2025	2	Rs. 119 Cr on Contractor	
Maharashtra	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

State / UT	Projects involving major deficiencies including major collapses, damages, potholes, cracking or structural failure on NHs			
	Year	No. of projects	Penalty Imposed	Other penal action
	2026	2	Rs. 75 lakhs on Contractor and Rs. 12.50 lakhs on AE	
Tamil Nadu	2023	1		Rectification done at Contractors own cost
	2025	1	Rs. 18.05 lakhs on contractor & Rs. 5 lakhs on IE	
Uttar Pradesh	2026	5		Termination of Contractor in 1 project; Project Manager of Contractor and Team Leader (TL) of Authority Engineer for 1 no. of project; TL and Resident Engineer of IE and Project Manager (Maintenance) of Contractor debarred for 2 years for 1 no. of project.
Uttarakhand	2023	1		Rectification done at Contractors 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	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	
