

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5480
ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2019

TANAKPUR-PITHORAGARH NH PROJECT

5480. SHRI AJAY TAMTA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all weather under construction National Highway-09 from Tanakpur to Pithoragarh is being obstructed due to debris/landslide with the onset of monsoons and resulting in long jam thereby causing grave travel inconvenience to the local people and sick persons;
- (b) if so, the remedial measures taken/ being taken by the Government/NHAI to address the issue;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to inspect/audit the quality of road construction work through some prestigious agency like I.I.T. Roorkee in view of the alleged irregularities therein particularly in the work of cutting of mountains on the said NH resulting in loosening of rocks even during light rains thereby causing heavy loss of life and property during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent irregularities and ensure quality check in the execution of construction work on the said NH?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) Yes Sir. The National Highway- 09 from Tanakpur to Pithoragarh is vulnerable for obstruction due to debris/landslide during monsoon. However, whenever such obstruction takes place, the same is cleared on priority to maintain the road in traffic worthy condition.
- (b) In order to clear obstruction of the project road caused due to debris/landslide, adequate numbers of equipment have been deployed at nearby area of landslide prone zones so that hindrances are cleared at the earliest possible time. As a long term remedial measures, total 25 places of landslide prone areas are identified and special landslide protection works have been taken up.

(c) to (e) The work on this NH is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of contract by State PWD, Uttarakhand. For EPC projects, the contractor is primarily responsible for design and construction of the road project through proper quality control measures. For this, the EPC contractor shall appoint design consultant for design of the road project, proof consultant for proof checking of the design and safety consultant for safety audit of the project road at the design stage. Further, Authority's Engineer comprising a team of qualified and professional experts have been appointed for day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the construction works, which includes monitoring of quality control of the works as required under the contract agreement. The design and drawings submitted by the contractor after due proof checking and safety audit is being reviewed by the Authority's Engineer before execution of the road project. However, in certain special cases, the services of IITs and NITs are obtained for proof checking of the design done by the contractor. The contractor is directly responsible for ensuring quality of the work as well as rectification of any defect and maintenance of the project stretch for a period of 4 years after completion.
