

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2726
ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2023**

CONDITION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

2726. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the roads/National Highways (NHs) in the country are unsurfaced and not suitable for use of vehicular traffic and their condition is further aggravated due to the poor maintenance, especially in rainy season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether NHs suffer from the deficiencies of inadequate capacity, weak pavement, poor riding quality, distressed bridges, unbridged level crossings, congested cities, lack of by-pass roads, lack of wayside amenities and safety measures etc.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. It is ensured that the NHs are in general in surfaced condition. The main reason for deficiencies in certain NH stretches are due to inadequate pavement thickness which are mainly on newly notified NHs. The works on such NHs as well as other NHs are taken up from time to time as per inter-

se priority, traffic density and availability of funds, to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition. These works are carried out as per relevant Indian Roads Congress (IRC) Codes / Manuals, Ministry's guidelines, relevant international codes and good industry practices, according highest priority to road safety.

For immediate restoration of damaged NHs stretches including damages in rainy season, various types of Maintenance and Repair (M&R) works are taken up which includes Ordinary Repairs (OR), Periodical Renewals (PR) / Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (IRQP), Special Repairs (SR) and Flood Damage Repairs (FDR) to ensure their traffic worthiness.

The Ministry has undertaken development of about 34,800 km of NHs under the Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I including subsumed National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Various other schemes for development of roads / NHs undertaken by the Ministry are Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East Region (SARDP-NE) including Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads, Special Programme for Development of Roads in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Externally Aided Projects (EAP), etc.

The Ministry also undertakes development works on other NHs (which are not covered under any specific scheme) under National Highway (Original) [NH(O)] in consultation with State Governments/ UTs and other implementing agencies such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Development of all NHs under above mentioned schemes invariably includes construction / upgradation of weak bridges, Road over Bridges (ROBs), Road under Bridges (RUBs), strengthening of weak pavements and related road safety works, etc.

Decongestion of about 191 choke / congestion points including the development of ring roads in around 28 cities has been identified in various States as part of Bharatmala Pariyojana. Out of these, 58 choke / congestion points have been rectified and works have been taken up / awarded in 86 choke / congestion points.

Works have also been taken up for development of Wayside Amenities (WSAs) along NHs. About 156 nos. of WSA sites have been awarded so far, out of which 38 nos. of WSA sites have been operationalized.
