

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3868
ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2023**

PLANTATION ALONG NHs

3868. SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of plants planted along National Highways (NHs) that are verified using ISRO's Bhuvan and Gagan Satellite systems under Green Highways Policy, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether any monitoring mechanisms are in place to check plantation sustainability and mitigation of air pollution under the policy as per the specific climatic conditions in the region of NHs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing limit of allocating one per cent funds for greening of highways from total project cost of highway project and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of upgradation and maintenance of about 783 km of selected existing NHs along with the criteria adopted for their selection?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has planted 344.27 lakh plants under the Green Highways Policy during the year 2016-17 to

2022-23 (Upto February, 2023). However, these plants have not been verified using ISRO's Bhuvan and Gagan Satellite systems.

(b) to (c) Yes Sir. The monitoring of plantations is done by geo-tagging the plants and by monthly drone videos for rapid assessment. Manual verification is done, as and when required, to cross check the assessment.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Maintenance & repair of national highways is an ongoing process. On completed sections, repair & maintenance is carried out by Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contractors/ Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) concessionaires. In stretches under implementation, the maintenance is carried out by the contractor/concessionaire as part of their obligations in the contract. Maintenance and repair of balance stretches of NHs are carried out regularly as per available budgetary outlay, inter-se priority and traffic density to keep such NHs in traffic worthy conditions.
