

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2494
ANSWERED ON 03RD AUGUST, 2023**

MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAYS

2494. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented stringent measures to ensure maintenance and upkeep of the old road infrastructure on the National Highways of Bishnupur in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the funds sought, allocated and expenditure incurred during the last four years, NH-wise;**
- (c) whether any tests have been carried out to ensure the structural soundness of the NH infrastructure of Bishnupur, West Bengal, especially the old bridges, to meet the road safety standards; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

a) Maintenance and upkeep of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process.

Maintenance & upkeep of stretches of NHs, where development works have commenced/ concession have been awarded, are the responsibility of the concerned contractors/ concessionaires till the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ the Concession Period.

Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and maintenance (O&M) Contracts are awarded in respect of certain stretches of NHs to maintain the road for a particular fixed period as mentioned in the concessions/ contract agreements.

Those NH stretches, not covered by above said arrangements are maintained by various types of Maintenance and Repairs (M&R) works such as Ordinary Repairs (OR), Periodical Renewals (PR), Special Repairs (SR) and Flood Damage Repairs (FDR) by the executing agencies of MoRTH.

Same mechanism is followed for maintenance and upkeep of NHs in the State of West Bengal including those in the District of Bishnupur.

b) Funds are allocated and spent on state and project wise and not on NH wise. Funds allocated and expenditure incurred for maintenance of stretches of NHs in West Bengal not covered by NH developmental works, OMT Concessions and O&M Contracts during last four years are as under:

Financial Year	Allocation (Rs. in cr.)	Expenditure (Rs. in cr.)
2019-20	42.00	38.00
2020-21	116.97	101.24
2021-22	47.63	36.59
2022-23	47.34	34.43

(c) & (d) Yes Sir, various tests like rebound hammer test, ultrasonic pulse velocity test, carbonation test, half cell Potentiometer test and compressive strength test on cores have been carried out on various structures on NHs in the Bishnupur District in West Bengal for assessment of condition of the bridges.
