

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1780
ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

EFFECTS ON CONSTRUCTION OF NHS DUE TO LOCKDOWN

**1780. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of National Highways (NHs) was affected during the lockdown in the country due to COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the length of construction and widening of NHs completed during the period from March, 2020 to January, 2021 vis-a-vis the same period in the previous year;

(c) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has framed rules for imposing huge fine and ban on contractors to bid for future projects as a penalty for causing accidents and deaths due to structural collapse or defects in design;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for road safety and quality construction of NHs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) The progress of National Highways (NHs) construction was affected for first two quarters of the current financial year i.e. 2020-21 due to lockdown in the country imposed post outbreak of COVID-19. However, due to several initiatives taken by the Government under Atmanirbhar Bharat to extend all possible help to Contractors, Concessionaires and Developers to ease out their cash flow, pace of construction of NHs geared up in remaining period of FY 2020-21.**
- (b) The length of National Highways constructed till January, 2021 is 9132 km in the current financial year 2020-21 as compared to 7925 km during the same period in the previous financial year i.e. 2019-20.**
- (c) & (d) NHAI has issued a policy circular on 08.01.2021 to decide penal action on the Contractor in case of failure of structures/highway in NHAI projects. Accordingly, financial penalty ranging from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 10 crore on the contracting firm and debarment up to 3 years for the key personnel has been proposed depending on the severity of failure/neglect.**
- (e) Road Safety Audits are being carried out at all stages of development of the highway i.e. design / construction / operation stages to minimize accidents. Further, Ministry has taken up various initiative on priority such as installation of crash barriers, rectification of black spots to ensure safe movement of road users. All National Highways are constructed as per quality standards specified in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways/ Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications. Quality Control and Quality Assurance is being exercised through Authority Engineer and Quality checks implemented through representatives of the Authority in the field.**
