

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4957  
ANSWERED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**DEVELOPMENT OF NH-66**

**4957. SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN:**

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री**

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had decided to acquire the land and building of 12th century St.George Orthodox Church at Cheppad near Kayamkulam for development of NH-66;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether a survey as part of the land acquisition had been completed by NHAI amid the protest by church authorities and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether NHAI is considering to make realignment of NH-66 in view of the Court's Order in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

**(a) to (d) 4/6 lane widening from Karnataka/Kerala Border to Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border of NH-66 as part of Economic Corridor component under Bharatmala Pariyojana has been taken up with**

**45m Right of Way (RoW). Earlier, the widening was taken up to existing highway at Cheppad location and the building of St. George Orthodox Church was not affected. However, on the opposite side, another church (The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Catholicate of the East) was getting affected. People objected over the widening & went to Hon'ble High court of Kerala. The Hon'ble High court on 16.01.2019 ordered to take up the matter with Government of Kerala.**

**Based on the direction of Hon'ble High Court, design consultant suggested revised widening proposal which is concentric, and leading to reduction in LA cost. However, in the revised alignment, a portion of St. George Church is getting affected. The revised alignment has also been consented by Government of Kerala and approved by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The process of Land Acquisition along the revised alignment has been initiated, Land acquisition notification under section 3(D) of NH Act has also been published vide S.O. No. 4822 (E) dated 31.12.21 and further, action under section 3G & 3H of NH Act has been initiated.**

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