

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1809
ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2024**

NEW HIGHWAYS IN KERALA

1809. Shri Benny Behanan:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals for new highway projects or bypasses in Kerala, if so, the details along with the projected cost and timeline;

(b) the details of number of road accidents reported in Kerala during the last three years, along with the measures taken to improve road safety in the State;

(c) the progress made in the implementation of the Intelligent Transportation System(ITS) in Kerala, including the current status and expected completion date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to address the issue of potholes and poor road conditions on National Highways in Kerala and the funds allocated for maintenance of roads during the last year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. At present, in the state of Kerala, construction in a total length of 821.43 km amounting to Rs. 57774.00 crore has been undertaken. Further, consultants for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been engaged for various stretches of NHs in the state of Kerala. The decision of construction is subject to outcome of DPR, technical feasibility, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(b) Total 32,269 road accidents have occurred over the three years from 2020 to 2022 on National Highways in Kerala. Based on the road accident data provided by the Government of Kerala, Ministry has identified 460 nos. of black spots on various National Highways in state of Kerala during last three years.

Ministry has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care. The initiatives taken among others include

- Road Safety Advocacy Scheme to provide financial assistance to various agencies for raising awareness about road safety and for administering road safety programs;**
- a scheme for setting up of Institutes of Driving Training & Research (IDTRs), Regional Driving Training Centres (RDTCs) and Driving Training Centres (DTCs) at state/district level across the Country. One Driving Training Institute has been sanctioned at Eddapal in Kerala State.**
- Road Safety Audit (RSA) of all National Highways (NHs) has been made mandatory at all stages i.e. design, construction, operation and maintenance etc. A special initiative has been undertaken to complete short-term rectification measures of all identified black spots on NHs in all states/UTs including Kerala by December, 2024 and sanction long-term rectification measures, wherever required, on all identified black spot**

locations on NHs in the country, including Kerala in current Financial Year 2024-25.

- Ministry has mandated the provision of an airbag for the passenger seated on the front seat of a vehicle, next to the driver; fitment of Seat Belt Reminder (SBR) for driver and co-driver, Manual Override for central locking system, Over speed warning system and Reverse Parking Alert System for all M and N category. Ministry has also mandated speed limiting function/speed limiting device in all transport vehicles, except for two wheelers, three wheelers, quadricycles, fire tenders, ambulances and police vehicles.**
- Ministry has issued rules for Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety. The rules specify the detailed provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices on high risk & high density corridors on National Highways, State Highways and critical junctions in cities with more than one million population.**
- Ministry has notified rules for the protection of Good Samaritan.**
- National Highways Authority of India has made provisions for ambulances with paramedical staff/Emergency Medical Technician/Nurse at toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways and, along with National Health Authority (NHA), has implemented a pilot program for providing cashless treatment to victims of road accidents in Chandigarh and Assam.**

(c) The provision of Intelligent Transport System(ITS) involving Video Surveillance System, Vehicle Actuated Radar Speed Displays, emergency roadside telephones, Variable Message sign, Automatic traffic Counter cum classifier, etc. are included in ongoing projects in Kerala executed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Last of the Scheduled Completion Date of these projects is March 2026.

(d) Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The Ministry has evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and

Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections, including for the State of Kerala, through accountable maintenance agency.

The M&R of stretches of NHs, where Development works have commenced or Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contracts have been awarded, are the responsibility of the concerned Concessionaires/ Contractors till the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ the Concession Period. Similarly, for NHs stretches undertaken under TOT (Toll Operate and Transfer) and InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust), M&R responsibility lies with concerned Concessionaire till the end of the Concession Period.

For remaining NHs stretches, Ministry has taken policy decision to undertake maintenance works through contract maintenance, which is either Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), leaving no section of NHs without any accountable contractual maintenance agency.

During 2023-24, Ministry has incurred expenditure of Rs. 10,419 crore towards development and maintenance of NHs in the State of Kerala.
