

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 248  
ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS**

**\*248. SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:  
SHRI MUKESHKUMAR CHANDRAKAANT DALAL:**

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

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total number of tunnels planned for construction across the country in the coming years, including their total distance and estimated cost, State-wise, particularly in Palghar in Maharashtra;**
- (b) the details of completed tunnel projects and the projects currently under construction;**
- (c) the role of tunnels in improving the connectivity and reducing travel time especially in the hilly regions of the country;**
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to construct a tunnel road to bypass the Shiradi Ghat section between Mangalore and Bangalore to address travel challenges; and**
- (e) if so, the details of the proposed project including the status of feasibility studies, timelines, and budget allocations?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

**(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 248 ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA AND SHRI MUKESHKUMAR CHANDRAKAANT DALAL REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS.**

---

(a) and (b) The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. To date, 42 tunnels covering 60.37 km length have been completed in 27 projects and 57 tunnels covering 93.96 km length are currently under implementation in 37 projects on NHs in the country. Additionally, 3 tunnels covering 9.68 km length have been approved for construction in 3 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,962 crore. A tunnel with a length of 0.8 km on NH-248S in Palghar district, Maharashtra is in the project preparation stage as part of the Vadhavan Port Connectivity project. The State / Union Territory (UT) - wise details of tunnels approved for construction on NHs are as below:

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>No. of Tunnels</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>562</b>

Besides, one 6-lane project in Maharashtra costing Rs. 4501 crore, including construction of 2 tunnels having total length of 3.47 km has been appraised by Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).

**(c) Tunnels on NHs are constructed to avoid passage through snow bound areas, eco-sensitive areas, pass below water bodies or congested areas, etc. The fundamental objective of road tunnel is to ensure safe transit of the road traffic in difficult terrain. Tunnels play a crucial role in enhancing connectivity and reducing travel time, especially in the hilly regions of the country by providing a safer alternative to treacherous mountain passes, resulting in lesser vehicle operating cost and emission of greenhouse gases. Tunnels are less affected by adverse weather conditions like heavy snow or fog ensuring more reliable travel round the year in hilly terrain.**

**(d) and (e) Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) including alignment option study, feasibility study, cost estimation, assessment of the construction period, groundwork for pre-construction activities, etc. for construction of greenfield alignment in Shiradi Ghat section of NH-75 including tunnels has been awarded. The construction work can be taken up based on the outcome of DPR and inter-se-priority.**

**\*\*\*\*\***