

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1776
ANSWERED ON 05TH DECEMBER, 2024**

FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR MAINTENANCE OF NHS

1776. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds allocated for the maintenance of National Highways(NHs) across the country;

(b) whether the Government has considered that given the vast length of National Highways, the allocated amount for maintenance may be inadequate, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of recommendations, including those from NITI Aayog, which suggest prioritizing the maintenance of existing roads over the construction of new National Highways, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government acknowledges any direct connection between the lack of infrastructure improvement on older National Highways and the increasing number of road accidents in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Provisional allocation for all types of Maintenance and Repair (M&R) works on National Highways (NHs) by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) during 2024-25 is about ₹ 6,500 Crore.

(b) and (c) Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The conditions of NHs are assessed from time to time by MoRTH and its various executing agencies. The maintenance works on NHs are accordingly taken up from time to time to keep the NHs in traffic worthy condition.

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. No separate maintenance expenditure is recorded in respect of these NHs stretches.

For all remaining sections of NHs stretches, the Government has prioritized the maintenance and inter-alia evolved a mechanism to ensure M&R of all NHs sections through accountable maintenance agency through Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC). MoRTH has incurred expenditure of ₹ 6,523 Crore towards maintenance on such stretches during last year.

Since accounting of separate maintenance expenditure is not done for a large section of NHs as above, therefore expenditure incurred on entire NH network merely based on the expenditure incurred on maintenance contracts does not provide a true picture of expenditure on maintenance of entire NH network in the country.

(d) No specific study has been taken up to establish a direct connection between the lack of infrastructure improvement on older NHs and the increasing number of road accidents in the country. However, the analysis of road accident data from the States / Union Territories (UTs) reveals that road accidents are multi-causal and are the result of interplay of various factors which can broadly be categorized into human error, road condition/environment and vehicular condition.
