

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3984  
ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**LUDHIANA-BATHINDA HIGHWAY**

**3984. SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:**

**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) proposes to withdraw the letter of approval for the Ludhiana-Bathinda Highway Project in Punjab and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the NHAI to complete the Ludhiana-Bathinda Highway Project since 2022, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether any deadline/target date was set by the Government for the completion of the Project and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessments on the financial impact and losses incurred due to delays in the Ludhiana-Bathinda Highway Project, if so, the details of estimated financial implications and the steps being taken to mitigate further delays;**
- (e) the challenges identified by the Government affecting the progress of the project;**
- (f) the measures being implemented to ensure timely completion; and**
- (g) whether the Government plans on doing third-party audits to evaluate the quality of work and adherence to timelines for the project, if so, the details thereof?**

## ANSWER

### THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Ludhiana-Bathinda section is being implemented in the following three packages:

(i) **Package-I (30.300 km): Under construction since 14.09.2023.**

(ii) **Package-II (45.243 km): Project Awarded on 09.11.2021; Concession Agreement yet to be signed. The Letter of Award (LOA) for Ludhiana-Bathinda (Package-II) was earlier under consideration for withdrawal in view of delay in handing over of possession of land by the State Government of Punjab. However, with the recent handover of possession of about 92% of land by the State Government, the proposal for withdrawal of LOA has been kept on hold.**

(iii) **Southern Ludhiana Bypass (25.24 km): The project was earlier awarded on 02.06.2022. However, LOA was withdrawn in January, 2024 due to the non-availability of land. Now, considering availability of land, fresh bids are being invited for award.**

(b) and (c) **Regular meetings with District Administration and Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab regarding possession of land from farmers and land owners are conducted for its follow up and close monitoring. The present status of possession of land in Ludhiana-Bathinda project and status of completion is as under:**

<b>Package</b>	<b>Project Length (in km)</b>	<b>Length in possession (in km)</b>	<b>Possession (in %)</b>	<b>Appointed Date</b>	<b>Likely completion date</b>
<b>Package-I</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>14.09.2023</b>	<b>22.04.2026</b>
<b>Package-II</b>	<b>45.24</b>	<b>41.64</b>	<b>92.04 %</b>	<b>Yet to be declared</b>	<b>730 days from Appointed date</b>
<b>Southern Ludhiana Bypass</b>	<b>25.24</b>	<b>21.69</b>	<b>88.09%</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Bids invited. 730 days from Appointed date</b>

**(d) Due to delays, there may be cost escalation that will be known only after completion of the corridor. Efforts are being made to minimise any further delays and various steps, including enhanced project management, timely resource allocation, and coordination with contractors, are being undertaken to expedite the completion of the highway.**

**(e) and (f) Due to demand of higher compensation of land acquisition by farmers, there have been significant delays in handing over of land by the State Government. Efforts are being made for possession of balance land.**

**(g) The National Highways are constructed as per quality standards specified in IRC specifications. Quality control tests are conducted by the Contractor/ Concessionaire/ Authority Engineer/ Independent Engineer/ Officers of implementing agencies at the specified frequencies. Further, external technical audit is also conducted as per requirement.**

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