

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 570
ANSWERED ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

**UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE OF OLD ROADS/BRIDGES ON
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS**

570. SHRI SHASHANK MANI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of old roads and bridges on National Highways, including in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof including fund allocations and timelines set for maintenance work;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce any monitoring mechanism to ensure the structural integrity of road infrastructure, especially for aging bridges and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is a system in place for regular safety assessments and audits of bridges and high-traffic roads, particularly in regions prone to adverse weather conditions or heavy loads and if so, the details thereof, including the frequency of inspections and recent findings thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Government in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs).

Development and maintenance of NHs, including bridges thereon, in the country, including for the State of Uttar Pradesh, is a

continuous process. The conditions of NHs including condition of bridges 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; such works also include rectification of deficiencies and damages caused due to various reasons, rehabilitation and strengthening of NHs, repair / rehabilitation / construction of bridges etc.

The Government has evolved a mechanism to ensure maintenance and Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections including bridges 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 all remaining sections of NHs stretches, Government has taken a policy decision to undertake maintenance works through Performance based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), leaving no section of NHs without an accountable contractual maintenance agency.

Expenditure of Rs. 3,493 Crore has been incurred upto 31.10.2024 towards M&R of NHs during 2024-25, including Rs. 432 Crore for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Visual as well as equipment based periodical inspection, evaluation and monitoring has been mandated for NHs, including bridges, to ensure that structural integrity of various components of NHs is maintained through timely repair/rehabilitation intervention. Structural health monitoring on real time basis is also carried out in some very important bridges. Government has also initiated Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) for monitoring and maintenance plan of the bridges and other structures on the entire NH network in the country.

(c) Government has mandated road safety audit at all stages (design stage, construction stage, while opening to traffic and during operations) through engagement of independent road safety expert for improving road safety on NHs, including bridges.

Further, Consultants (Authority's Engineer / Independent Engineer) are appointed by the Ministry and its executing agencies for day to day supervision of the works at site.

Officials of MoRTH and its executing agencies as well as Independent Third-Party Auditors undertake inspections time-to-time and ensure adherence of conformity of quality of construction by the Concessionaire / Contractor. Deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / supervision are brought to the notice of the Concessionaires / Contractors for taking up necessary corrective measures.
