

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 878
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th November, 2024

CONSTRUCTION WORK OF JAMMU-POONCH HIGHWAY BY BRO

878. SHRI MIAN ALTAF AHMAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it's a fact that the construction work of strategically located 220 km Jammu-Poonch highway is going on at a sluggish pace, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is not a fact that due to sluggish pace of construction work of Jammu-Poonch highway general public of Hilly districts of Rajouri and Poonch suffer badly;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Border Roads Organisation for completing the construction work at the earliest; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) has taken up development of 168 km length of Akhnoor-Poonch Highway of NH-144A to 2-lane-with paved shoulder configuration including four tunnels (involving about 4.85 km length) in eight construction packages. Border Roads Organization (BRO) is the executing agency for this project. So far about 83 km length has been constructed. These works are targeted for completion in a phased manner between 2025 and 2027.

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has taken up development of 30 km stretch of NH-144A between Jammu and Akhnoor in four construction packages. So far work on 5.2 km length has been completed. Works in remaining three packages are targeted for completion by March 2026.

Both BRO and NHIDCL ensure regular maintenance of the highway in traffic worthy conditions for safe movement of vehicles and commuters including general public of districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

(d) & (e): The steps taken by BRO towards implementation of the project without further delays include regular follow ups and close coordination with concerned departments and authorities of the Union Territory (UT) on outstanding issues. MoRT&H also closely monitors various issues affecting completion of these projects (e.g. land acquisition, encroachment removal, law and order issues, utility shifting, various clearances and contractual issues) with all stakeholders including UT Government. Regular meetings with concerned UT officials at local/district/UT level are held as per requirements based on the criticality of the issues.
