

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1477
ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

EXEMPTING FARMERS ON NH TOLLS

1477. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to exempt farmers carrying farm produce to destinations from paying tolls on National Highways (NHs);**
- (b) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that the quality of roads providing rural connectivity is of the highest quality, providing seamless all-weather connectivity, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether any uniform standards are available with respect to construction and maintenance of roads in the country including State highways and rural roads, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the extent to which the roads are equipped for disaster management and quick response, especially those connecting rural areas; and**
- (e) the steps taken to develop border roads in the country?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) As per the provisions of National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, no fee shall be levied for the use of**

the section of national highway by tractors and animal drawn vehicle, provided that three wheelers, tractors and animal-drawn vehicles shall not be allowed to use the section of national highway where a service road or alternative road is available in lieu of the said National Highway.

(b) & (c) For Rural roads, as per the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Guidelines, ensuring the quality of the road works is responsibility of the respective State Governments which are implementing the Programme. There is a three-tiered Quality Control mechanism for ensuring construction of quality road works and durability of road assets under PMGSY.

The construction and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is done in accordance with the standards and specifications specified by the Government and Indian Road Congress (IRC). All efforts are made to ensure that the NH are constructed as per quality standards.

Further, to ensure the construction quality, the supervision consultants are appointed on project specific basis for day-to-day supervision of the works at site. Deficiencies, if any, observed during such examination / supervision are brought to the notice of the contractor/ concessionaire for taking up necessary corrective measures at their own cost.

Additionally, the Contractor/Concessionaire is made responsible for defect liability/maintenance of project for a period of 5 to 15 years depending on mode of execution of project.

(d) Adequate safety features are provisioned in the design of roads and structures under National Highways.

Further, Emergency Response Teams, equipped with adequate manpower and machinery, are deployed at National Highways. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made the provision of emergency services like Ambulance, patrolling vehicle and crane on 24x7 basis at fee plaza. The helpline number 1033, set up by the NHAI is designed to address various issues including concerns about emergency services. The helpline operates 24x7 and is managed to ensure prompt responses.

(e) National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) was established to fast pace construction of National Highways and other infrastructure in the North Eastern Region and Strategic areas of the country which share international boundaries. The road projects are aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, for comprehensive connectivity and are executed through the implementing agencies such as Border Road Organisation (BRO), NHIDCL and respective State PWDs in border areas.
