

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2427
ANSWERED ON 13th MARCH 2025**

CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

2427. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Highways constructed in the last financial year as compared to previous years;**
- (b) the major reasons for the delay in the Bharatmala project and the revised timeline set by the Government for its completion;**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite land acquisition for pending National Highway projects;**
- (d) the number of expressway projects currently under construction and their estimated completion timeline; and**
- (e) the measures being implemented to ensure timely maintenance of existing highways and prevent accidents caused by potholes?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) The length of National Highways (NHs) constructed during the last five financial years i.e. from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is Annexed.**

(b) There have been delays in implementation of some projects under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana due to delays in pre-construction activities including Land Acquisition (LA), financial difficulties faced by contractors, force majeure events, and scarcity of construction materials, etc. To overcome these challenges and expedite project execution, the Government has undertaken various initiatives. These include streamlining and expediting land acquisition process, revamping Parivesh Portal to facilitate faster forest and environmental clearances, enabling online approval of GAD of ROB/RUB from the Railways, and conducting review meetings at various levels with all stakeholders, including State Governments. The Government is taking all necessary steps for timely completion of these projects. The revised timeline for completion of balance ongoing works is Financial Year (FY) 2027-28.

New sanctions under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I were halted with effect from 16th November, 2023.

(c) Government has taken steps to streamline land acquisition process by leveraging the mechanism of review and resolution of bottlenecks/hindrances in ongoing projects, in active collaboration with the State Governments and other stakeholders. Also making full efforts to expedite the availability of necessary clearances / approvals and the fulfilment of conditions precedent, for new projects.

(d) Under Bharatmala Pariyojana, 5 expressways spanning 2,504 km were envisaged. Of which, 2,417 km has been awarded and 1,842 km has been constructed till February, 2025 with some sections operational.

(e) The development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The Government has prioritized maintenance of existing NH network and inter-alia evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance & Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections 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).

Repair of identified defects / issues in the road condition as well as other maintenance / repair works are completed by the Contractor / Concessionaire within the stipulated timeline as per provisions of the Contract. Compliance is ensured through penalty provisions incorporated in the Contract documents for action against defaulting Contractor / Concessionaire.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2427 ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025 ASKED BY SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

The length of National Highways (NHs) constructed during the last five financial years i.e. from 2019-20 to 2023-24

Year	Length Constructed (in km)
2019-20	10,237
2020-21	13,327
2021-22	10,457
2022-23	10,331
2023-24	12,349
