

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3381  
ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**EXPANSION OF HIGHWAY NETWORKS**

**†3381. SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:**

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the expansion of the highway network contributes to economic growth and development and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the manner in which the Government prioritizes highway construction in various regions of the country, particularly in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the challenges in maintaining the vast network of national highways across the country;**
- (d) the systems established to ensure proper maintenance of highways after the construction phase;**
- (e) the measures being taken to improve road safety and reduce accidents on highways; and**
- (f) the future plans for the development of highway rest areas and other facilities and the status of their execution?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

- (a) Infrastructure sector is the prime mover of the economy and contributes to the faster economic growth and development.**

**National Highways (NH) network length in the country has increased from 91,287 km in March, 2014 to 1,46,204 km at present. With increased budgetary allocation over the years, quality of roads has improved substantially. Length of 4 lane and above NH network has increased by 2.5 times from about 18,371 km in 2014 to about 48,430 km. Also, proportion of less than 2-lane NHs has decreased from 30% to 9% of the total NH network. National High Speed Corridors (HSCs) / Expressways in about 2,474 km length have already been operationalized.**

**The above developments have increased the regional connectivity and accessibility to the NHs across the country including increased logistic efficiency.**

**(b) Development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. Works on NHs are accordingly taken up based on the traffic density, condition of the road, inter-se priority and synergy with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP). At present, 1,310 NHs projects in 31,187 km length costing ₹8.11 Lakh Crore are under construction in the country. State / Union Territory (UT) – wise details of such works, including for the State of Madhya Pradesh (which includes Balaghat district), are at Annexure-I.**

**(c) and (d) The Government has prioritized the maintenance of existing NH network and inter-alia evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and 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).**

**(e) Government has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety based on Education, Engineering (both of roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care. Details of various initiatives to address road safety issues are at Annexure-II.**

**(f) The Government envisions development of Wayside Amenities (WSAs) at approximate intervals of 40-60 km along NHs. Government in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has planned to award around 700+ WSAs. Total 393 WSAs have been awarded so far, out of which 94 are operational. Out of the 94 operational WSAs, 59 are equipped with trucker facilities and 50 with Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations. Additionally, 100 sites have been allocated to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the development of trucker facilities.**

**ANNEXURE-I****ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3381 ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 ASKED BY SMT. BHARTI PARDHI AND SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE REGARDING EXPANSION OF HIGHWAY NETWORKS****State / UT – wise details of NHs works under construction, including for the State of Madhya Pradesh (which includes Balaghat district):-**

Sl. No.	State	No. of Works	Length (in km)	Cost (₹ Cr)
1	Andhra Pradesh	97	2,378	55,661
2	Arunachal Pradesh	18	356	4,227
3	Assam	59	1,054	36,093
4	Bihar	67	2,143	64,766
5	Chhattisgarh	41	1,384	15,181
6	Goa	20	37	1,549
7	Gujarat	40	1,205	36,132
8	Haryana	20	549	20,015
9	Himachal Pradesh	31	586	17,987
10	Jharkhand	29	838	19,439
11	Karnataka	72	1,831	36,178
12	Kerala	20	708	50,495
13	Madhya Pradesh	58	2,036	29,030
14	Maharashtra	135	2,944	72,437
15	Manipur	32	703	10,514
16	Meghalaya	14	286	5,344
17	Mizoram	15	452	8,030
18	Nagaland	25	523	7,436
19	Odisha	62	1,174	21,525
20	Punjab	36	1,143	38,133
21	Rajasthan	41	1,170	17,047
22	Sikkim	13	197	4,019
23	Tamil Nadu	56	984	36,490
24	Telangana	52	1,423	25,323
25	Tripura	14	293	7,215
26	Uttar Pradesh	92	2,470	89,103
27	Uttarakhand	56	720	19,067
28	West Bengal	30	379	12,413
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	179	1,314
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3	37	338
31	Delhi	3	37	4,780
32	Jammu and Kashmir	47	810	41,735
33	Ladakh	6	159	2,076

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3381 ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 ASKED BY SMT. BHARTI PARDHI AND SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE REGARDING EXPANSION OF HIGHWAY NETWORKS**

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**Details of various initiatives to address road safety issues: -**

**(A) Education:**

- i. Administers Road Safety Advocacy Scheme to provide financial assistance to various agencies for raising awareness about road safety and for administering road safety programs.**
- ii. Observance of National Road Safety Month/Week every year for spreading awareness and strengthening road safety.**
- iii. Administers a scheme for setting up of Institutes of Driving Training & Research (IDTRs), Regional Driving Training Centres (RDTCs) and Driving Training Centres (DTCs) at state/district level across the Country.**

**(B) Engineering:**

**B.1. Road Engineering:**

- i. Road Safety Audit (RSA) of all National Highways (NHs) has been made mandatory through third party auditors/ experts at all stages i.e. design, construction, operation and maintenance etc.**
- ii. High priority is accorded to identification and rectification of black spots /accident spots on NHs.**
- iii. Road Safety Officer (RSO) has been designated at each Regional Office of road owning agencies to look after RSA and other road safety related works.**
- iv. Administers the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) Project to establish a central repository for reporting, management and analysis of road accidents data across the Country.**
- v. Guidelines have been issued for the provision of signages on Expressways and National Highways to offer improved visibility and intuitive guidance to the drivers.**

- vi. **Provisions have been made in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 for failure to comply with standards for the road design, construction and maintenance, as prescribed by the Government from time to time.**

## **B.2 Vehicle Engineering:**

**Initiatives to make vehicles safer, include the following:-**

- i. **Mandatory provision of an airbag for the passenger seated on the front seat of a vehicle, next to the driver.**
- ii. **Prescribed norms related to safety measures for children below four years of age, riding or being carried on a motor cycle. It also specifies use of a safety harness, crash helmet and restricts speed to 40kmph.**
- iii. **Mandatory provisions for fitment of following listed safety technologies: -**

**For M1 category vehicles:**

- a. **Seat Belt Reminder (SBR) for driver and co-driver.**
- b. **Manual Override for central locking system**
- c. **Over speed warning system.**

**For all M and N category vehicles:**

- a. **Reverse Parking Alert System**
- iv. **Mandated Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) for certain classes of L [Motor vehicle with less than four wheels and includes a Quadricycle], M [Motor vehicles with at least four wheels used for carrying passengers] and N [Motor vehicles with at least four wheels used for carrying goods which may also carry persons in addition to goods, subject to conditions stipulated in BIS standards] categories.**
- v. **Mandated speed limiting function/speed limiting device in all transport vehicles, except for two wheelers, three wheelers, quadricycles, fire tenders, ambulances and police vehicles.**
- vi. **Published the rules for recognition, regulation and control of Automated Testing Stations, which define the procedure for fitness testing of vehicles through automated equipment and the procedure for grant of fitness certificate by ATs. The**

**rules have been further amended on 31.10.2022 and 14.03.2024.**

- vii. Formulated the Vehicle Scrapping Policy based on incentives/dis-incentives and for creating an ecosystem to phase out old, unfit and polluting vehicles.**
- viii. Formulated a Scheme to set up one model Inspection & Certification Centre in each State/UT with Central assistance for testing the fitness of vehicles through an automated system.**
- ix. Published rules regarding the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (BNCAP) to introduce the concept of safety rating of passenger cars and empower consumers to take informed decisions.**
- x. Published rules regarding prescribed level playing field in the area of manufacturing of buses by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Bus Body Builders.**
- xi. Mandated vehicles, manufactured on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025, shall be fitted with an air-conditioning system for the cabin of vehicles of N2 (goods vehicle with gross vehicle weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12.0 tonnes) and N3 (goods vehicle with gross vehicle weight exceeding 12.0 tonnes) category.**
- xii. Published rules for revision of standards for Safety Belt, Restraint Systems and Safety Belt Reminder to provide provisions for applicability of revised standards for safety belt assemblies, safety belt anchorages and the installation of Safety Belts and Restraint Systems, in Motor vehicles of category M, N and L7 w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2025. Further, the vehicles of category M1, manufactured on and after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, shall meet the requirement of safety belt reminder for all front facing rear seats as per AIS-145-2018.**

**(C) Enforcement:**

- i. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 as stands implemented provides for strict penalties for ensuring compliance and enhancing deterrence for violation of traffic rules and strict enforcement through use of technology.**

- ii. Government has issued rules for Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety. The rules specify the detailed provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices on high risk & high density corridors on National Highways, State Highways and critical junctions in cities having population of more than one million in the country and cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).**
  - iii. Government on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, has issued an advisory to all the States and Union territories on technological interventions for ensuring compliance with Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.**
- (D) Emergency Care:**
- i. Published rules for the protection of Good Samaritan, who in good faith, voluntarily and without expectation of any reward or compensation renders emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance at the scene of an accident to the victim or transports such victim to the hospital.**
  - ii. Enhanced compensation of victims of Hit and Run motor accidents (from Rs.12,500 to Rs.50,000 for grievous hurt and from Rs.25,000 to Rs.2,00,000 for death).**
  - iii. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made provisions for ambulances with paramedical staff/Emergency Medical Technician/Nurse at toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways.**
  - iv. Government, has implemented a pilot program for providing cashless treatment to victims of road accidents in Chandigarh Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Puducherry and Assam.**

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