

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4530  
ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**ENSURING EQUITABLE TOLL CHARGES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS**

**4530. SHRI HIBI EDEN:**

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

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government would reconsider the methodology for toll tax calculation to ensure fair pricing for road users, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government would impose stricter regulations on concessionaires to ensure proper maintenance of highways, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether concessionaires are fulfilling their obligations regarding road maintenance, black spot management and passenger amenities, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether the exponential increase in revenue collection due to higher vehicle numbers justifies a reduction in toll rates, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government would review the existing rules that determine toll tax on National Highways, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) whether the base rate of toll fees per kilometer under the NH Fee Rules, 2008, would be lowered considering the increase in vehicular traffic, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

## **ANSWER**

### **THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

**(a) The extant fee rule (National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008) for levy of Fee for services or benefits rendered on National Highways, was formulated in the year 2008, ensuring transparency and certainty in the determination of user fee rates, with a uniform methodology for calculating user fees across the country and the same fee rule continues to be in effect.**

**As such, the user fee is collected at a fee plaza for the use of any section of National Highway as per the provisions of National Highways Fee Rules, 2008 applicable for the respective category of vehicles uniformly across the country.**

**(b) Maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is regulated/governed as per provisions of the respective Concession Agreements. In case of any defaults on part of Concessionaires, appropriate penal actions are taken including the execution of works at the risk and cost of the Concessionaire.**

**(c) The development and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process. The defects in maintenance are surveyed through periodic inspection by the concerned contractor/ concessionaire/ consultant. The rectification of ageing infrastructure over a period of time is dealt as per the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) requirements specified in the contract/concession agreement duly supported by the technical guidelines. Penal action is also taken in case of non-fulfilment of conditions stipulated in contract/concession agreement. Accordingly, efforts are made to ensure that the National Highways are in a traffic-worthy condition.**

**(d) to (f) The government undertakes several National Highways projects, including the widening of existing roads, the development of Greenfield NH projects, to accommodate growing traffic, improve safety, promote economic growth, and enhance logistics efficiency.**

**However, over time, the construction cost of National Highways have also increased due to increasing cost of acquisition of land, inflation and other related expenses.**

**Various factors such as Lane Configuration i.e. 2 Lane with paved shoulders/ 4 or more lane, Length of Section, Length of Bypasses /Structures /Tunnels and Type of Vehicle (Car, Bus, Multi Axle Trucks, etc.) are considered in determining the rate of user fee at a fee plaza for use of a particular section of National Highway, in accordance with provision of NH Fee rules.**

**Further, the user fee collected at NH user fee plazas is subject to periodic revision, primarily to account for changes in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).**

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