

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 268
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD SECTION OF NH-48

†*268. SHRI PATEL UMESHBHAI BABUBHAI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large potholes are formed on the Mumbai–Ahmedabad stretch of National Highway (NH)-48 (Delhi–Chennai) every year and it fails to/is not able to withstand even the first spell of monsoon rains;**
- (b) whether any investigation has been carried out/undertaken to ascertain the reasons behind the consistently poor condition of this highway during monsoon, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to rectify the same;**
- (c) the reasons for the failure to maintain the road quality to satisfactory/required standards despite multiple toll hikes implemented on this route in recent years; and**
- (d) whether there is any mechanism to ensure accountability for the maintenance of highways and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against the defaulting agencies during the last five years?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 268 ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025 ASKED BY SHRI PATEL UMESHBHAI BABUBHAI REGARDING 'MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD SECTION OF NH-48'.

(a) to (c) The section of NH-48 from Vadodara to Maharashtra border in State of Gujarat lies in a high rainfall region and carries nearly 1.5 Lakhs Passenger Car Unit (PCU) traffic. Since this stretch carries very heavy commercial traffic, it is more susceptible to surface defect especially during monsoon season. The damages and pothole formations have been observed at some locations on the Vadodara-Bharuch-Surat -Vapi stretch of NH-48 in Gujarat State, due to continuous heavy rain complemented with heavy commercial traffic on the highway stretch. However, the potholes are regularly being attended by Maintenance agency to keep the stretch in motorable conditions.

Prior to 2021, on account of very high commercial traffic & huge rainfall and pavement distress was noticed on bituminous pavement of Achhad to Dahisar section of NH-48 in state of Maharashtra. Therefore, as a long term solution, the work of white topping of entire section of 121 Km stretch was sanctioned. This white topping work is under progress and targeted for its completion by November 2025. The lane by lane work, issue of traffic congestion, pre-mature running of vehicle over fresh/under curing concrete etc led to localised failures in white topping. The potholes in the white topping are being attended by the white topping Contractor by replacing the damaged panels. In addition to this during on-going monsoon, the potholes are also repaired by mastic asphalt. During construction, the domain experts from Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay have been consulted. The methodology and on-site work of repair and replacement of damaged panels has also been reviewed by IIT Bombay.

To reduce traffic load on NH-48, a parallel corridor—the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway—is also under construction. Upon its completion, a significant portion of the traffic is expected to be diverted from NH - 48. In addition to

this, based on site requirements, additional works such as widening of bridges, construction of new Vehicular Underpasses/Light Vehicular Underpasses (VUPs/LVUPs)/flyovers, and provision of service roads have already been sanctioned on existing NH-48, and execution of these works is in progress.

(d) The lapses in maintenance of highway are being dealt with applicable penal provisions in the Contract including taking up the works on the Risks & Cost of non-performing contractors. The details of action taken against the defaulting agencies during the last five years are as under:

Sl No	Section of NH-48	Details of Action taken against the defaulting agencies during the last five years
1	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Section	Damages/penalty of Rs. 27.67 Crore imposed on Contractor/concessionaire.
2	Vadodara-Bharuch Section	Damages/penalty of Rs. 0.35 crore is imposed on Contractor
3	Surat to Vapi Section	The Performance Bank Guarantee amounting to Rs. 2.90 Crore has been encashed. A penalty of Rs. 9.02 crore has been imposed, and a recovery of Rs. 13.84 crore has been counterclaimed through arbitration proceedings.
4	Achhad to Dahisar section	The Contractor has been debarred by NHAI from 22.04.2025 to 23.11.2025 for default in the contract. NHAI is also taking up rectification on risk & cost of defaulting contractor.
