

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1936
ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2025**

DEEP POTHoles ON NH-966

1936. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deep potholes on National Highway (NH)-966 especially along the Olavakkode-Thanavu road stretch in Palakkad have been causing traffic jams and accidents if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the incomplete widening work on this highway just 250-300 metres before Thanavu Junction at Puthuppariyaram in Palakkad has resulted into a bottleneck on the said stretch causing traffic jams and accidents if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether this highway needs to be converted/upgraded into four lanes to reduce traffic jams between Olavakkode and Chandranagar and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to address all the above issues?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) The maintenance work for the stretch between Thanavu and Olavakkode on NH-966 in Palakkad town was approved in December 2024 at an estimated cost of ₹34.90 lakh. Due to no response of bidders, the tender was finalized in the fifth call. The work is scheduled to commence shortly and is targeted for completion by October 2025. A stretch of approximately 300 metres near Thanavu Junction was excluded from the widening work of NH-966 from Nattukal to Thanavu, which was completed in June, 2023, due to inadequate Right of Way (ROW) to accommodate widening.

(c) & (d) A proposal for a four lane greenfield access controlled project between Palakkad and Kozhikode, aimed at decongesting the existing NH-966, is under consideration.
