

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3089
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

CENTRE MEDIAN PLANTATIONS ON NHs

3089. SHRI DURAI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Centre Median Plantations on National Highways (NHs) are a critical component of road safety design as they reduce headlight glare and visibility of oncoming traffic especially during night driving and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the median plantations are absent or poorly maintained on many NH stretches across the country including in Tamil Nadu defeating the purpose of median safety and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines or instructions to the National Highways Authority of India and concessionaires to ensure proper design, planting and maintenance of centre median greenery and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to revive or implement uniform median greening in all 6-lane/4-lane NHs across the country to enhance visual comfort and reduce accident risk and if so, the beautification efforts undertaken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance of National Highways (NHs) are carried out in conformity with applicable Indian Roads Congress (IRC) guidelines, specifications, manuals and policy circulars of the Government. Accordingly, centre median is provided on divided NHs with the objective of segregating the two directions of traffic for improving safety against vehicle crossing and overtaking manoeuvre. Further to cut-off headlight glare and improve visibility of oncoming traffic during night, planting of flowering plants and shrubs in centre median is done depending upon median type i.e. depressed/flush, its width, paved or unpaved and availability of land.

(b) Contract Agreement provides for regular maintenance, including pruning, weeding, and watering of the median plantation on NHs across country including in Tamil Nadu for the long-term health and effectiveness of the plantation. The shape of shrubs and plants has been suitably regulated so that there is no overgrowth either vertically or horizontally. Care is taken to ensure that the plants do not obstruct visibility for drivers or create any safety hazards.

(c) and (d) Guidelines have been issued to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and other executing agencies to ensure the periodical monitoring and maintenance measures such as regular trimming of the shrubs and trees on the Highways so that the signages installed on the Highways remain clearly visible to the drivers at all seasons. It also reiterated that obstruction due to trees and plants including median plantation shall be removed immediately. NHAI has issued specifications of saplings for median plantations to ensure quality and aesthetic due to uniformity in appearance of planting material in all 6-lane/4-lane NHs across the country.
