

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3203
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

CONSTRUCTION OF NH-85 IN KERALA

3203. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the lawyers empanelled by the National Highways Authority of India(NHAI) to argue the cases in the Kerala High Court;

(b) whether any performance audit has been conducted to assess the performance of the lawyers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the High Court directive to NHAI to stay the construction activities of National Highway (NH)-85, Kochi-Munnar Highway, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also aware that the lawyer appointed by NHAI failed to appear in the court to argue the case, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of times NHAI lawyers have either been absent or lost the case in the Kerala High Court?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) 22 Advocates & 3 law firms have been empanelled by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for arguing its cases before the Honorable Kerala High Court.

(b) NHAI maintains a roster of empanelled advocates along with the case allocation details. Performance of NHAI empanelled advocates is considered while updating the empanelment on yearly basis after scrutiny by the concerned Regional Office as per the guidelines of NHAI dated 20.06.2025.

(c) Yes Sir. Hon'ble Kerala High Court has, by its order dated 11.07.2025 passed in W.P.(C) No. 30391/2024, directed the State Government and NHAI to stop the felling of trees and carrying out of non-forest activities on land along both sides of National Highway-85 (Neryamangalam-Valara Stretch). Further, the Hon'ble Court has directed the Chief Secretary to immediately look into the issues. NHAI has preferred a review petition on 28.07.2025 against the High Court Order dated 11.07.2025 passed in W.P.(C)No. 30391/2024.

(d) Deputy Solicitor General of India-authorized advocate appeared on behalf of the Government and NHAI.

(e) There is no central mechanism for monitoring the failure of advocates to make an appearance in the court.
