

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 801
ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2025**

PREVENTING ENCROACHMENT ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

801. Shri Rahul Kaswan:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of encroachment along National Highways, particularly where the Right-of-Way (RoW) has been compromised due to illegal structures;

(b) the specific surveillance regimes that have been deployed to detect and deter encroachments following the Supreme Court's May 2025 directives;

(c) whether any action has been taken against responsible officers including project directors, executive engineers or police officials where RoW violations continued despite prior warnings and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of FIRs or legal notices that have been issued and illegal constructions demolished;

(e) whether the Government has instituted a time-bound compliance framework assigning accountability and detailing penalties for projected clearance delays or negligence; and

(f) if so, the timeline and status of establishing such enforcement measures and if not, the reasons for absence of such mechanisms?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

(a) The status of the reported unauthorised occupation and removal of unauthorised occupation on National Highways (NHs) is as under:

No. of unauthorised occupations identified along NHs during FY 2024-25	No. of unauthorised occupations removed during FY 2024-25
28644	16423

(b) Over the last couple of years, the Government has launched an intensive campaign for ascertainment and removal of unauthorised occupations from National Highways (NHs) following the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. All the State Governments have been requested to issue necessary instructions to District Administration and District Police to extend support to the Field Officers of the Government for removal of unauthorised occupation on stretches under section 26 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002. Further, steps have been initiated for setting up a national level Highway Administration, formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and delegation of powers to District Magistrates under section 26 of the said Act. Under the proposed SoP, a provision has been made for drone imaging and analytics of National Highways every three months if the stretches are under development and every six months if the stretches are under maintenance. All field officers are being instructed to compulsorily ascertain the extent of unauthorized occupation on NHs during their inspections and promptly report the matter to the officers authorized by the Highway Administration.

(c) The field officers managing the stretches of National Highways have been sensitized about the unauthorised occupation and other Right of Way (RoW) violations. Regional officers are now mandated to monitor the removal of unauthorized occupation on NHs and take up the matter with the respective State Government.

(d) 20,482 notices under section 26 of the Act have been issued in 2023-24.

(e) and (f) The compliance framework has been laid out in the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 and the corresponding Highway Administration Rules, 2004. The Government has initiated steps for constitution of a National Level Highway Administration, formulation of SOP and delegation of powers to District Magistrates under section 26 of the Act along with periodic review at the regional and national level. Aided by drone imagery and analysis, the revamped set-up as per the proposed SoP and the clear delegation of power, especially to the District Magistrate, will bring in accountability and effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

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