

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 911
ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2025**

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ASSAM

911. Shri Ranjit Dutta:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the stretches of the National Highway from Baihata Chariali to Mission Chariali and from Gohpur to North Lakhimpur in Assam are in a severely deteriorated condition with numerous potholes and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware that these road stretches are vital for daily commuters and have become accident-prone due to poor maintenance necessitating urgent intervention for the safety and benefit of the local population and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any plans or proposals to repair and upgrade these stretches in a time-bound manner; and**
- (d) if so, the details of the proposed timeline and budgetary allocation made thereon?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (d) The stretches of the National Highway from Baihata Chariali to Mission Chariali and from Gohpur to North Lakhimpur in Assam have recently been entrusted to National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) as per Gazette of India Notification dated 30.05.2025. However, these stretches are yet to be physically handed over by the State Public Works Department to NHIDCL.

The State PWD has reported that the stretch from Baihata Chariali to Mission Chariali (Km 0.000 to Km 134.500) had developed potholes at several locations which were rectified through Short-Term Maintenance Contract (STMC) carried out during 2024–25. As regards the stretch from Gohpur to North Lakhimpur, potholes had developed due to severe rainfall and landslides at various locations during the 2024 monsoon. These stretches were not under DLP (Defect Liability Period) at the time. To address these issues, two maintenance works under Performance-Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) mode have been sanctioned and the works were allotted on 18.12.2024 and 17.06.2025 respectively, which will ensure maintenance of these road stretches for the next five years.

A Project Management Consultancy (PMC) firm has been engaged for carrying out the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 4-laning of the section from Baihata Chariali to Mission Chariali. Further, bids have also been invited for engaging Project Management Consultancy (PMC) in the stretch from Gohpur to Lakhimpur wherein bids have been received and are under evaluation.

The Government has prioritized the maintenance of National Highways (NH) network and has evolved a mechanism to ensure Maintenance and Repair (M&R) of all NHs sections through an accountable maintenance agency. The Government has planned that all NHs sections should be under Maintenance, through one of the following mechanisms:

- i. Maintenance & Repair (M&R) of stretches of NHs, where development works have commenced or Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) Concessions/ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contracts have been awarded are the responsibility of the concerned Concessionaires/ Contractors till the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP)/ Concession Period.**
- ii. For all remaining sections of NHs stretches, Government has taken a policy decision to undertake maintenance works through Performance-Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) or Short-Term Maintenance Contract (STMC). While STMC works are generally undertaken for a contract period of 1-2 year, PBMC works are undertaken for a contract period of about 5-7 years.**

Additionally, regular road inspections are carried out to assess road conditions, identify areas requiring maintenance or upgradation, and ensure that the highways remain safe, accessible, and well-maintained.
