

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 6
ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026**

STRUCTURAL ISSUES ON NH-66 IN KERALA

6. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of repeated collapses and structural issues on National Highway-66 in Kerala and if so, the details of investigations conducted to ascertain the causes of such failures including the role of design and contractor performance;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes an independent technical audit or third-party evaluation of major National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) projects in Kerala to ensure long-term safety; and**
- (c) if so, the details and status thereof along with the timelines, if any, fixed in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026 ASKED BY SHRI BENNY BEHANAN, HON'BLE MP(LS) REGARDING 'STRUCTURAL ISSUES ON NH-66 IN KERALA'.

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been some incidents of embankment settlement and failure of Reinforced Soil (RS) Wall since May,25.

(i) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in May,25 constituted a committee of Experts to analyse the failure and recommend remedial measures.

(ii) Thereafter, NHAI also constituted an additional Independent Expert Committee which visited all vulnerable locations of Reinforced Soil (RS) Walls and Slope Protection Works in ongoing projects on NH-66 in Kerala. Expert Committee submitted their report on 04.08.2025. NHAI is taking actions as per recommendations of above committee.

(iii) In response to incident involving girders falling in November,25, NHAI has engaged M/s. RITES to conduct Technical cum Safety Audit of Aroor-Thuravoor (12 Km) 6-lane elevated corridor project on NH-66. M/s. RITES has submitted interim report on 10.01.2026.

(iv) In light of repeated incidents, to address the issue in design and construction of Reinforced Soil (RS) walls, NHAI has deployed about 10 Geotechnical Investigation Agencies to carry out soil and ground assessments for every RS Wall across 17 projects on NH-66 (Total 351 structures). This work is being supervised by the former IIT-Delhi Professor and Associate Professor & Head of Civil Engineering, IIT Palakkad. Based on the results, each RS Wall will be re-evaluated, and necessary corrective actions wherever required will be taken.
