

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2166
ANSWERED ON 12TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

SAFETY AUDIT OF NH-66

2166. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) **the current status of the safety audit announced by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the entire stretch of National Highway (NH)-66 from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram;**
- (b) **whether the Government proposes to issue directions to NHAI to construct elevated highways instead of embankments, which are prone to collapse;**
- (c) **if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) **if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) **In NH-66, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had constituted an Independent Expert Committee comprising of former/ present Chief Scientists, Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), Director, Geological Survey of India, Professor & Head of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad, who visited all vulnerable locations of Reinforced Soil (RS) Walls and Slope Protection Works in the ongoing projects on NH-66 in Kerala.**

Expert Committee submitted their report on 04.08.2025. NHAI is taking actions as per recommendations of the above Committee.

In view of two incidents at Kooriyad and Mylakkadu, it has been decided to verify bearing capacity beneath RS walls and to address this, NHAI has deployed about 10 Geotechnical Investigation Agencies to carry out soil and ground assessments at every RS Wall location 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 will be taken up.
