GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3150
ANSWERED ON 18th DECEMBER 2025

DELAY IN NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS

3150. SHRI KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and value of national highway projects sanctioned during the last ten years which are currently delayed along with the current status of the project;

(b) the total number and value of highway projects which have been bid out but construction is yet to begin including the reasons for non-commencement;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite these delayed projects to avoid cost escalation; and

(d) the manner in which the Government plans to bring all delayed or uninitiated highway projects back on schedule?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) 643 under construction National Highways (NHs) projects with cumulative project cost of about Rs. Four lakh crore, which were sanctioned and subsequently awarded since the Financial Year 2015-16 onwards and currently under construction, have spilled beyond their original completion schedule as per contract. Of which, 301 projects are facing a delay of <1 year, 263 projects of 1-3 years and 79 projects of more than 3 years, without attaining any of the various stages of project completion and excluding projects under consideration for termination / foreclosure. Majority of these projects are scheduled to be completed during the current and next financial year.

(b) 133 NH projects with total cost of about Rs. one lakh crore have been awarded but appointed date could not be declared pending fulfilment of pre-requisite conditions, inter-alia, availability of encumbrance free land and clearances including forest and wildlife clearances excluding available time period with contractor / concessionaire for achievement of financial close and submission of bank guarantee.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure timely completion of NH projects, the Government has undertaken various initiatives. These include streamlining and expediting land acquisition using "Bhoomirashi" portal and GIS-based Land Acquisition Plan, revamping "Parivesh" Portal to facilitate faster forest and environmental clearances, enabling online approval of General Arrangement Drawings (GAD) of Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROB/RUB) from the Railways, and leveraging the mechanism of review and resolution of bottlenecks / hindrances in ongoing projects, in active collaboration with the State Governments and other stakeholders. Railways has also launched a web portal for Railway related clearances with defined timelines for various approvals.

The Government has put in place a strong framework using multiple mechanisms for monitoring project progress and contractor inefficiencies. Regular review meetings are conducted at various levels with stakeholders to assess project progress, and critical projects,

such as those delayed by more than three years or pending for award / appointment.

Further, many State Governments conduct coordination meetings led by the Chief Secretary to resolve issues affecting project execution. Projects where issues remain unresolved are escalated for further review through the Project Monitoring Group and "PRAGATI".

As a result of the above, no. of projects delayed by more than 3 years has been reduced from 152 as on 01.04.2024 to 85 as on 30.11.2025. Further, no. of projects for which appointed date could not be declared even after being awarded for more than 12 months, has been reduced from 87 as on 01.04.2024 to 45 as on 30.11.2025.

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