GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2059
ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2026

INCREASE IN HEIGHT OF CULVERTS/BRIDGES

2059. SHRI JAGADISH SHETTAR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures are being contemplated to increase the height of culverts/bridges from the present 4.5 metres to 5.5 metres while undertaking construction of highways to facilitate easy movement of vehicles beneath them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (b) Culverts and bridges are cross-drainage structures on National Highways which facilitate the drainage of natural watercourses across the National Highways. The vent size, span arrangement and height of such structures are governed by hydraulic considerations at the location, namely the design discharge, the highest flood level, the permissible afflux and scour considerations, and not by the requirement of movement of vehicles beneath the highway as they are meant for crossing of water channel.

However, movement of traffic across and beneath a National Highway is provided through grade-separated structures, namely Vehicular Underpasses (VUP), Light Vehicle Underpasses (LVUP)/Small Vehicle Underpasses (SVUP), Cattle Underpasses (CUP) and Pedestrian Underpasses (PUP). A minimum vertical clearance of 5.5 metres is already prescribed for Vehicular Underpasses (VUP) on National Highways, and is provided while undertaking construction, four/six-laning and upgradation of National Highways. Structures falling in the LVUP/SVUP/CUP/PUP categories (height varying from 3.0 m to 4.5 m) are, by design, provided with lower vertical clearances, since they are intended to serve restricted categories of traffic including pedestrians.

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