

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3111
ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2026**

Status of Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana

3111. Shri Rao Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana, including the extent of road development completed so far;**
- (b) the progress made under the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana in providing All-weather road connectivity to the Chardham pilgrimage sites; and**
- (c) the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana and the measures taken by the Government to ensure its timely completion?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana comprises improvement of 5 existing National Highways (NHs) connecting Chardham viz., Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath including Tanakpur to Pithoragarh section of Kailas-Mansarovar yatra, aggregating a length of about 825 km. Out of 825 km length, 640 km length has been completed.

Under the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, in August 2019, a High Powered Committee (HPC) was constituted comprising

representatives from various reputed institutes such as Physical Research Laboratory, Wildlife Institute of India, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Central Soil Conservation Research Institute, National Institute of Disaster Management, Forest Research Institute etc. with mandate to consider the cumulative and independent impact of Chardham Projects on the entire Himalayan Valleys and give directions in respect of environmental impacts. In addition, Hon'ble Supreme Court also directed to set up an "Oversight Committee" to ensure the implementation of the recommendations given in the report of aforesaid HPC especially the strategic roads viz. Rishikesh – Mana, Rishikesh – Gangotri and Tanakpur - Pithoragarh. The Committees meet on regular basis and their recommendations are implemented during the execution of works.

The implementation of these projects has encountered several challenges, including environmental and ecological concerns, delays in Land Acquisitions (LA) & obtaining forest clearances, difficult Himalayan terrain, frequent landslides and adverse weather conditions.

The Government has taken various steps to address these challenges such as:

- i. Coordination with local administration & concerned departments for Land Acquisition (LA) & Forest Clearance (FC)**
- ii. Regular review meetings with contractors and State Authorities at various levels to resolve bottlenecks.**
- iii. Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in compliance of Hon'ble Court order.**
- iv. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Ltd. (THDCIL) for specialized landslide treatment measures for the State of Uttarakhand.**
- v. Decision taken in November, 2024 for implementation of "Cost-effective Long-term Remedial Measures of Landslide Prone areas in Hilly region" as per Expert Committee Report.**

- vi. **Decision taken in November, 2025 through policy initiative on "Additional Augmented and Systematic Remedial Measures to Address concerns regarding Construction of National Highways in Hilly Regions and Amendments to the Request For Proposal (RFP) for Detailed Project Report/Engineering, Procurement and Construction (DPR/EPC) Document thereof" in order to:**
- a. **improve the quality of DPRs;**
 - b. **ensure adequate provisions of hill slope protection measures;**
 - c. **improvement in construction practice in hilly terrain;**
 - d. **ensure implementation of slope cutting and stabilization works in the first instance to be followed up by road construction works for NHs in Hilly/Mountainous terrain;**
 - e. **monitoring and early warning system for potential landslides.**
- vii. **Decision taken in July, 2026 through policy initiatives on "Specification including mandatory Certification and Quality Assurance for Rockfall Mitigation Measures for National Highways Projects" elaborating comprehensively on necessary checks and balances regarding ensuring adherence to quality standards and obligations of contractors and field offices.**
- viii. **MoU signed with Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment (DGRE) for Technological collaboration of Geo-hazard mitigation measures on NHs.**
- ix. **MoU signed with Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Geological investigation for tunnels and sharing of data for Geohazard Studies.**
- x. **Research scheme taken up through Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee for Development of Guidelines for the Assessment of Hillslope Instability using Instrumentation & Real Time Monitoring.**
