

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2106  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005  
PACE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION  
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether an international conference on the role and Structural Engineers Towards reduction of Poverty was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the major decisions taken in the meeting;
- (c) whether the Government has accelerated the pace of National Highway construction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the short and long term solutions involving innovative cost effective technologies proposed by the Government for quick restoration of damaged infrastructure?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Indian National Group of International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering had organized an International Conference on the Role of Structural Engineers towards Reduction of Poverty in February 2005 in New Delhi, wherein it was extensively deliberated that Structural Engineers are responsible for planning, design, construction and maintenance of shelter and infrastructure, which encompasses connectivity of all types, energy, irrigation, water and sanitation. Structural Engineers are also handling the tasks of disaster mitigation and rehabilitation with a holistic approach. It was emphasized that Structural Engineers are conscious of their societal responsibilities in utilizing indigenous resources, ensuring sustainability by optimizing their use, minimizing waste and protecting environment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ongoing National Highways Development Project (NHDP Phase I & Phase II) covers about 14,000 km of National Highways. To accelerate the ongoing upgradation of National Highways, it is proposed to upgrade about 10,000 kms of National Highways on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Out of these 10,000 km, Government has recently approved upgradation of 4,000 kms under NHDP Phase IIIA at an estimated cost of Rs. 22,000 crore. The Government has also approved 'in-principle' the balance 6,000 km under NHDP Phase IIIB for which approval has also been given for preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

(e) Innovation of cost effective technologies in the road sector is a continuous process. Restoration of damaged National Highways is undertaken in a cost effective manner both on short as well as long term basis using innovative technologies and local materials depending upon the severity of damage and the site conditions.