

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
COMPLETION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `National Highway Projects hit roadblock` appearing in the Statesman dated April 04, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to complete all pending National Highway Development Projects in a time bound manner; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The news item pertains to exemption of National Highways Development Projects (NHDP) from purview of Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).

It has been decided by the Government that the projects for which bids were invited prior to 27.10.2005, would be exempted from the purview of the said committee. However, projects for which bids invited subsequently would be subject to clearance from PPPAC.

(c) and (d) The steps taken to expedite the projects are enclosed as Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) AND (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2834 FOR ANSWER ON 10TH MAY, 2006 ASKED BY SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA REGARDING COMPLETION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. -

STEPS TAKEN TO EXPEDITE THE PROJECTS

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:-

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHA. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified. Earlier all the notifications under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Now, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

(e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.