

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1212

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007

DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION WORK ON NH

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

- (a) whether the construction work on the National Highways is very slow and lagging behind the scheduled time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the present status of construction work of the National Highways under various programmes, project-wise;
- (d) the steps taken to monitor the progress of construction work of National Highways;
- (e) the funds allocated and spent during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and
- (f) the scheduled dates fixed for the completion of the projects?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) There are 43 No. of works each project costing more than Rs.5 crores aggregating to Rs.728 crore on National Highways entrusted with State PWD and Border Road Organization which are progressing slowly and delayed. There has been some delay in completion of some works on National Highways entrusted with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The main reasons for the delay in completion of work are the problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, delay in environmental and forest clearance, poor performance of some contractors, delay in clearances for railway overbridges

(ROBs, very heavy and continuous rainfall and extreme in some parts of the country, and law & order and insurgency problems in some States.

(c) The status of different phases of the National Highway Development project being implemented by NHAI are at Annexure I. In addition the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) Phase A provides for improvement of 1110 km. of National Highways. Preparation of detailed project report for development of 736 km. has started. Balance length of 374 km. have been approved for implementation.

(d) Regular monitoring of financial and physical progress of works is carried out with a view to removing bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government for monitoring as well as removal of bottlenecks. In addition, the following steps are also being taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the implementation of National Highway Development Project:

(i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest / pollution / environment clearances etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearances of railway overbridges etc.

(e) Funds for development of National Highways are allocated Statewise and Organizationwise and not projectwise. The Statewise and organizationwise details of the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on the development of National Highways during the last 3 years are at Annexure-II.

(f) Development and maintenance of the National Highway is a continuous process. The target date of completion of project is decided based on the type, amount, specifications used and location of the project. The completion date varies from project to project. The approved projects of NHDP are targeted for completion by December, 2015. SARDP-NE Phase A is targeted to be completed by March, 2009.

