

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4230

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014

LAND ACQUISITION FOR NHS

Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan;Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether acquisition of land is one of the major factors contributing to the delay in the implementation of the various National Highways (NHs) projects undertaken by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the procedure laid down for acquisition of land for various National Highways (NHs) projects;
- (c) the details of the projects which are currently delayed on account of acquisition of land along with time and cost overrun as a result thereof, State/UT-wise including Kerala;
- (d) whether the Government has received revised estimates for land acquisition from various States including Kerala for NHs projects in their States, if so, the details thereof along with action taken by the Government; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious acquisition of land for various NHs projects undertaken by them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Land for Highways projects is acquired following the procedure laid down under the National Highways Act, 1956. A total of 72 National Highways projects are delayed due to various reasons including acquisition of land as given in Annexure. The cost overrun is applicable only in item rate contracts. In such contracts, there is a provision of payment of escalation due to delays. In case the project is delayed due to reasons attributable to the contractor, liquidity damages are to be imposed and no escalation is paid. Actual escalation due to delay or cost over-run will be known only after completion of the project and final settlement of bills.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Several measures have been introduced to facilitate timely completion of land acquisition, as follows:-

- (i) Simplification of Procedure for issuing Notifications for acquisition of land;
- (ii) Facilities provided to Project Implementation Units (PIUs);
- (iii) Facilities provided to Competent Authority for land acquisition;
- (iv) Constitution of High Powered Committees under Chief Secretaries;
- (v) Setting up of dedicated Special Land Acquisition Units;
- (vi) Appointment of State Level Coordinator for land acquisition/pro-construction;
- (vii) Regional Offices headed by Chief General Managers with adequate delegated powers have been set up for effective monitoring of implementation of the projects.