

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) 150 numbers of National Highway Projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) as well as 32 number of projects with State PWD each costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Steps taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highway Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Delay in NH projects

1315. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been inordinate delay in National Highways projects;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to expedite the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the projects are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/ environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Action taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Widening of NH-24

1316. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which National Highway - 24 linking Delhi with Uttar Pradesh is proposed to be widened so as to help smooth movement of traffic in and around Delhi during 2010 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Delhi; and

(b) by when the task is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Widening of National Highway - 24 linking Delhi with Uttar Pradesh have already been taken up from Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi to Hapur in Uttar Pradesh for smooth movement of traffic in and around Delhi during 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi. National Highway No. 24 has already been widened to 8-lane except from km 5.70 to km 6.80 in Delhi Territory. The work of widening to 8-lane is in progress from km 5.70 to km 6.80 of National Highway No. 24 and the same is targeted to be completed by December, 2009. Further, section of National Highway No. 24 from Delhi/Uttar Pradesh Border to Hapur has already been four laned. In addition to this Government of NCT, Delhi is also constructing a flyover over Gazipur crossing and the same is targeted to be completed by April, 2010.

Delay in widening of NHs in Punjab

1317. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for the widening of National Highways in the State of Punjab lagging behind schedule for over one year; and

(b) the details thereof in each case, the reasons for delay and by when each project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Three projects are lagging behind schedule for over one year in the State of Punjab. The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Delay in widening of NHs in Punjab

Sl. No.	Name of work	Length (in km)	Cost (Rs. In crore)	Date of start	Stipulated date of completion	Likely date of completion	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Four laning from km 110.450 to km 117.750 and km 4.000 to km 16.350 of Pathankot-Jammu section of NH-1A	19.65	90.12	22.11.05	May 2008	Dec. 2010	I. Non Mobilisation of adequate resources, poor planning and mis-management by the Contractor.