

(c) Contractors/concessionaires placed in the list of non-performers, are not allowed to bid for further projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), till their performance improves and their names are removed from the list of non-performers.

Bad condition of NH-55 of Darjeeling

†1154. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for bad condition of National Highway-55, which connects the hilly areas of Darjeeling in comparison to other National Highways of the country;

(b) whether Government has made any special schemes for proper maintenance of National Highways of the hilly areas; and

(c) whether keeping in view the importance of National Highway-55 in terms of tourism, tea, commercial and frontier strategic location, Government has provided separate package or planning for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Total length of NH-55 is 77 km. Out of this, about 67 km passes through hilly terrain. The road is kept in traffic worthy condition within the available funds. There is no special scheme for maintenance of National Highways in hilly areas. However, keeping in view the damages the hill roads are prone to, including the one in Darjeeling area, improvement/maintenance works are sanctioned in various Annual Plans. In view of the importance attached with NH-55, its development has been included under Special Project through World Bank Loan assistance. Consultancy service for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been awarded.

NH projects held up in Rajasthan

1155. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any National Highway projects in Rajasthan which are currently held up in implementation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.