

Chopping of trees for road construction

†1812. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the authority which accords permission for chopping off the trees during the construction of roads and whether it does not amount to the violation of the order of the Supreme Court;

(b) State-wise details of trees chopped during construction of roads; and

(c) whether funds have been provided for planting trees; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITTN PRASADA): (a) During widening and improvement of National Highways, existing trees are generally preserved as far as possible. Where the cutting of trees is unavoidable, the executing Agencies take clearance from the concerned Government Departments. For major projects, environment clearance which includes cutting of trees, is obtained from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. There is no violation of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) Details of the number of trees cut all over the Country, is not maintained.

(c) Requisite amount for compensatory afforestation is deposited with the Forest Departments, which is included in the project cost.

Widening of NH-47

1813. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the widening of the National Highway 47 in Kerala;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to repair the National Highways in Kerala;

(d) if so, the percentage of work that has been completed; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of projects for widening of NH 47 in Kerala are given in the Statement (See below). Due to the ban on Land Acquisition (LA) activity in the State of Kerala imposed by Kerala Government since April 2010, the Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued to the prospective Concessionaire in Cherthala-Ochira Section was withdrawn on 12.08.2010 and the bidding process cancelled. Similarly, in Ochira-Thiruvananthapuram Section, though the bidding process was initiated subsequently, the same was cancelled on 04.05.2010 due to the stalemate on LA. Government of Kerala has now lifted the ban on LA on 04.11.2011 and directed the District Collectors to resume the LA process.

(c) to (e) The National Highway stretches under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) where 4/6 laning works have commenced / being carried out under BOT basis are being maintained through the Concessionaires of the projects. The 4-lane stretch from Edappally to Aroor is being maintained by NHAI. The remaining stretches of NHs are being maintained by the State PWD under funding of the Ministry. During the year 2011-12, Ministry has allocated Rs. 4.56 crore under Ordinary Repair (OR) and Rs. 1.84 crore under flood damages repair (FDR) for repair of National Highways under the maintenance of the State PWD in Kerala. Works for the same have already been taken up by the State PWD.

Statement

Widening of NH 47 projects in Kerala

Details of NH 47 projects in Kerala

(A) NHDP Phase-II									
Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of work	Length in km	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)	Funded By	Date of Commencement	Target date of completion	Actual / Anticipated date of completion	Status
1	47	4-laning of Walayar - Vadakkanchery section (Km 182.250 to Km 240)	55.00	682.00	BOT (Toll)		In bidding stage.		-
2	47	6-laning of Vadakkanchery - Thrissur section (Km 240 to Km 270)	28.355	617.00	BOT (Toll)	Apr-11	Oct-13	Oct-13	Under implementation
3	47	4-laning of Thrissur - Angamaly section (Km 270 to Km 316.700)	40.00	312.54	BOT (Toll)	Sep-06	Mar-09	Nov 2011	Completed.
4	47	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28)	16.60	77.38	NHAI	Sep-01	Aug-03	Jun-04	Completed.
4	47	Aluva to Edapally	17.00	By Ministry of Road Transport & Highways				Completed.	

(B) Port connectivity

1	47	Cochin Port connectivity (Aroor to Edappally) km 348/382 - km 358.750	10.00	193	SPV	Nov-08	Apr-10	Jan-11	Completed.
2	47C	NH connectivity to ICTT Vallarpadam	17.20	557	NHAI	Aug-07	Feb-10	May-12	Under implementation

(C) NHDP Phase-III

1	47	4/6 laning of Cherthalai to Ochira (Km 379/100 to Km 465.000)	BOT (Toll)	LOA withdrawn on 12.08.2010.	Land acquisition kept on hold since 20.04.2010.
	2	47 Trivandrum (Km 465/000 to Km 551.900)	4/6 laning of Ochira to (Toll)	BOT Bidding Process cancelled on 04.05.2010.	Now land acquisition ban lifted.
3	47	4/6 laning of of Trivandrum(Kazhakuttam) to Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border (Karode)	BOT (Toll)	Bids invited earlier in 2008 under BOT (Toll) but no response. In March 2010, RFQ was received under BOT (Annuity). PPPAC proposal was sent and withdrawn due to the stalemate in LA.	

(D) NON NHDP

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of work	Length in km	Status
1	47	Aroor to Cherthalai	20.35	4-laning completed
2	47A	km 0 to km 5.92	5.92	Existing 2-lane road is adequate