

(b) the number of National Highways out of them that need to be repaired; and

(c) the details of the construction of new National Highways and repair of existing highways, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The total length of National Highways (NHs) in the country is 79,116 km. Out of this the length of NHs in the State of Uttar Pradesh is 7,818 km. The development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. Accordingly, the NHs in the country including NHs passing through the State of Uttar Pradesh are kept in traffic worthy condition from time to time within the available resources.

Cost escalation due to slow construction of roads

1956. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of roads has slowed down recently;

(b) the details of the targets and achievement for road construction in the past three years;

(c) the details of the cost escalation due to delay in road projects; and

(d) whether Government has taken steps to cut delays and fasten road construction, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The targeted and completed length under various schemes including Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE) and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

(length in kms)		
Year	Target	Achievement
1	2	3
2009-10	5830	5164

1	2	3
2010-11	5534	4334
2011-12	5824	5013
2012-13	6092	4489®

@upto Feb. 2013.

(c) Cost escalation is applicable only in public funded contracts. In such contracts, there is a provision for payment of escalation due to delays. In case the project is delayed due to reasons attributable to the contractor, liquidated damages are to be imposed and no escalation is paid. Actual escalation due to delays is known only after completion of the project.

(d) Several high powered meetings have been held both in State and Centre to pre-empt the delays in construction of projects under implementation which are held up due to environment, forest clearance, non-availability of aggregates and construction material for earth work and land acquisition. In order to expedite implementation of the Projects, Regional Offices have been set up by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) headed by Chief General Manager. Powers have been delegated to the Chief General Manager who are involved in expediting forest/environmental clearances and monitor land acquisition matters as well as implementation of Projects. Special land acquisition units are also set up to expedite land acquisition. Chief Secretaries of State Government have also been nominated as Nodal officers to expedite Highway Projects. Projects are also closely and periodically reviewed at Headquarter as well as field units.

Proposal for National Expressway Network in Gujarat

1957. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to consider the proposal submitted by State Government of Gujarat for National Expressway Network; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is willing to increase length of planned National Expressway Network in Gujarat from 725 kilometre to more looking to its industrialisation and port development;