

Criteria for conversion into NH

2882. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the criteria for declaration/conversion of State Highways into National Highways including the quality standards specified for their construction;
- (b) the details of the proposals received from various States for upgradation of State Highways to National Highways along with the proposals approved/State Highways upgraded to NHs during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of pending proposals, if any, along with the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY) : (a) The criteria for declaration/conversion of State Highways (SH) is given in Statement (*See below*). Once an stretch is declared as NH, development is carried as per the NH specification stipulated by Indian Roads Congress.

(b) The Ministry had received the proposals for declaration of more than 64000 Kms. of State roads as National Highways from various State Governments, against which the Ministry has declared about 10000 Kms. of roads/routes as new National Highways.

(c) Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and declaration of new National Highway is taken up from time to time depending upon requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Statement***Criteria for declaration of National Highways***

The Ministry has devised an eleven points criteria for declaration of National Highways based upon the comments of the Planning Commission, are as under:

1. Road which run through the length and breadth of the country.
2. Roads connecting adjacent countries.

3. Roads connecting the National Capital with State Capital and roads connecting mutually the State Capitals.
4. Roads connecting major ports, non-major ports, large industrial centers or tourist centers.
5. Roads meeting very important strategic requirement in hilly and isolated areas.
6. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
7. Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions (other than strategically important ones).
8. National Highways grid of 100 km is achieved.
9. The road must be upto the standard laid down for State Highways (SHs)-both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements. The existing roads (SH, Major District Roads (MDRs) and other roads), which are important in terms of various criterion stipulated herein, will be considered for upgrading to NH standards. It will, however, be ensured that the roads being upgraded generally satisfy the standards laid down for SH but MDR and other roads required to be upgraded to form grid and connect important/backward areas will also be considered.
10. The existing Right of Way (ROW) should be the property of the State Government and must be generally free any type of encroachments.
11. The right of way required for the National Highways (preferably 45m, minimum 30m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachments and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months. If additional ROW is required for developing the road to NH standards, the State Governments would complete the acquisition expeditiously after sanctioning of estimates therefor.