

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish to give a detailed reply, better place it on the Table or send it to the Member. You have given a reply extensive answer.

Release of CRF for projects in Karnataka

*161. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has built roads under Central Road Fund (CRF), as per the recommendation of the States;
- (b) if so, the details of the roads constructed during the last three years in the country under CRF, State and UT-wise;
- (c) whether any proposals under CRF, from the State of Karnataka are pending;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government regarding speedy implementation and monitoring of funds under CRF?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The Ministry allocates funds for the States/ Union Territories (UTs) for development of State Roads and Roads of Economic Importance and Inter State Connectivity (EI&ISC) as per the provisions of the Central Road Fund (CRF) Act, 2000 amended by the Finance Act from time to time.

The State/ UT-wise details of State Roads constructed under CRF and EI&ISC schemes during the last three years are given in the Annexure (*See below*).

The projects under these schemes have been sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments / UTs subject to overall availability of funds and inter-se priority of works in accordance with the CRF (State Roads) Rules, 2014 amended from time to time. The proposals not considered for sanction during a financial year, including such proposals received from the State Government of Karnataka, have been treated as unapproved and not considered as pending.

With the amendment of CRF Act, 2000 through Finance Act, 2018 and replacement of the earlier Act by the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund Act (CRIF), 2000, sanction of schemes for State Road is no longer a function of the Central Government.

The Ministry releases funds for the road works under CRF Scheme based on the Utilisation Certificates (UCs) received from State Governments / UTs, duly ensuring that adequate fund is available with States/ UTs at all the times. The Ministry reviews the progress of projects and expenditure incurred while releasing funds based on such UCs.

The funds for State Roads under EI & ISC Schemes are allocated keeping in view the committed liabilities, progress of works, *inter-se* priority, etc. For EI & ISC works, the direct payment procedure applicable for National Highway (NH) works is followed; the funds are released directly to the contractors by the Ministry's Regional Offices (ROs)/ Engineering Liaisons Offices (ELOs)/ Regional Pay and Accounts Offices (RPAOs) based on the works done and bills received/ processed.

Annexure

The State/ UTs-wise details of State Roads constructed under CRF and EI&ISC schemes during the last three years

(Length in km)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Length of Roads constructed under CRF Scheme			Length of Roads constructed under EI&ISC Scheme		
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	305.00	553.00	528.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.30	14.00	41.72	3.09	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	97.00	35.77	66.18	27.90	15.21	0.00
4.	Bihar	23.93	33.85	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.80	11.20	33.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	4.85	18.90
7.	Gujarat	111.67	211.20	383.00	0.00	0.00	3.10
8.	Haryana	54.86	35.54	61.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	48.73	48.25	20.30	15.30	26.54	5.54
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	34.75	139.94	355.56	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	37.56	68.79	39.50	16.00	10.80	0.00
12.	Karnataka	219.00	136.00	1571.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	73.35	126.72	360.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	124.25	437.66	467.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	1696.87	688.47	537.82	58.90	67.06	0.00
16.	Manipur	2.15	52.70	32.70	34.00	44.20	70.20
17.	Meghalaya	19.45	16.54	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	14.92	14.00	17.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	62.10	38.10	14.03	85.83	86.10	43.04
20.	Odisha	14.47	81.32	120.99	31.30	46.86	18.54
21.	Punjab	58.06	127.56	190.72	0.00	28.29	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	296.00	421.00	353.00	6.45	0.00	0.00
23.	Sikkim	3.00	4.71	11.43	8.17	0.00	9.23
24.	Tamil Nadu	454.11	733.22	618.84	24.30	105.15	40.00
25.	Telangana	315.00	150.00	421.00	0.00	9.00	6.60
26.	Tripura	0.00	9.55	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	148.30	533.91	1403.49	0.00	61.74	37.00
28.	Uttarakhand	32.00	82.00	30.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	16.00	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that due to financial crunch, many State Highway projects in Karnataka are pending or getting delayed. If so, is the Government considering taking over such projects under the National Highway projects in Karnataka?

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: No, Sir.

SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Sir, is the Government considering exempting ex-Members of Parliament from toll tax on National Highways?

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: I am sorry, no, Sir. Actually, Members of Parliament are already being issued *fastags*. So, there is no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking about ex-MPs.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: The answer is no, Sir.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an elaborate answer to the question asked by my colleague. As far as Karnataka is concerned, he has said that the length of roads constructed under the Economic Importance and Inter State Connectivity is almost zero during the past three consecutive years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister this: Is it because you have not received any proposals from the State Government or are the proposals which have come from the State pending? I just want to know the reason for this.

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI : The question is only related to Central Road Fund (CRF). From 2018, under the Bill, which has been passed by the Parliament, it is the authority of the Finance Minister to decide about CRF allocations. So, at present, the Finance Minister is now authorised to take the decision; nothing is in my hand.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: I am talking about your answer. In the answer that you have given to the question you say that *almost for the three consecutive years, no length of roads have been constructed under the Economic Importance Programme or under the Interstate Connectivity.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is related to Central Road Fund.

श्री नितिन जयराम गडकरी: सभापति महोदय, कर्नाटक में राष्ट्रीय महामार्ग के लिए बहुत ज्यादा प्रावधान किया गया है और काफी रोड्स मंजूर की गयी हैं। आज तक के रिकॉर्ड में जितना काम नहीं हुआ, उतना काम कर्नाटक में किया गया है। जो *economic corridor* की बात है, उसके लिए हमने *already* बहुत सी रोड्स को NH में *convert* किया और उन्हें 4 lanes, 6 lanes और 8 lanes में *convert* किया जा रहा है। जो मैसूर से बेंगलुरु तक का है, उसका भी काम शुरू हुआ है।

Particularly इस हेड के लिए अब हमारे पास पैसा उपलब्ध नहीं है, इसलिए हम किसी स्टेट को नहीं दे रहे हैं।

Monitoring and assessment of forest cover

*162. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism for monitoring and assessment of the forest/ green cover in the country and if so, the details thereof, along with the forest cover, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to utilize remote sensing technology for the purpose and if so, the details thereof including the benefits of the said technology in terms of time and cost;
- (c) whether Government has any plan for promoting afforestation by planting trees like Sal in the various States; and
- (d) details of the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized during the last two years and the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory.

As per the latest report *i.e.* ISFR- 2017, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8, 02, 088 square kilometers (forest cover 708273 square kilometers, tree cover 93815 square kilometers) which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 8021 square kilometers (forest cover 6778 square kilometers, tree cover 1243 square kilometers) of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2015. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover along with percentage as per ISFR-2017 is given in Annexure-I (*See below*).

(b) The forest cover assessment is carried out by FSI using data from the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites of ISRO. Currently the forest cover mapping is being