

Upgradation of State Highways into NHs

934. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to convert State Highways into National Highways particularly in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government has earmarked any amount for such conversion;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, particularly in respect of Rajasthan;
- (d) whether Government has set any timeline for such conversion; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (e) The Ministry keeps on receiving proposals from various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), etc., including the State Government of Rajasthan, for declaration of State roads, including State Highways (SHs), as new National Highways (NHs). The Ministry considers declaration of some State roads, including SHs, as new NHs from time to time based on requirement of connectivity, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Total length of NHs have been increased from about 91, 287 km. in April, 2014 to about 1,32,500 km. at present. The length of NHs in the State of Rajasthan has increased from about 7,646 km. to 10,342 km. during this period.

Development and maintenance of NHs, including newly declared NHs, is a continuous process. Works on the NHs are accordingly taken up as per *inter-se* priority, traffic density and overall available resources to keep the NHs in Traffic worthy condition.

Status of coastal Mumbai-Goa highway

935. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the four-laned coastal highway was first proposed in 2016 and was to be completed in 2018, but the deadline was first shifted to March this year before being again postponed to the year end;

(b) if so, the details of schedule for completion of the four-lane Mumbai-Goa Highway Project (part of NH-66);

(c) the reasons for non-completion of the project and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of the current status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) No, Sir. There was no such target for construction of coastal road in Maharashtra. Ministry has undertaken preparation of DPR for the Maharashtra State Highway (MSH-4) also known as coastal road from Revas-Redi Port section in Maharashtra. However, MSH-4 is still a State road and is not declared as National Highway. The process of declaration of MSH-4 as National Highway and subsequent works on it is subjected to the finalization of new policy for declaration of National Highways.

(b) to (d) The work of 4-laning of Mumbai-Goa Highway (NH-66) of about 450 km. in length is under various stages of implementation. The details of four-laning of Mumbai-Goa Highway Project is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of four-laning of Mumbai-Goa Highway Project

Sl. No.	Package	Scheduled completion date	Likely date of completion	Issues/Reasons for delay	Status (Physical Progress)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Panvel to Indapur section	16.06.2014	June, 2020	The Projects were delayed due to various reasons such as delay in land acquisition, forest clearances, wildlife clearance, poor planning and mobilization by contractor/concessionaire, court cases, protest from local public etc.	77.64%
2.	Indapur to Vадpale section	17.12.2019			18.03%
3.	Veer to Bhogaon Khurd section	26.11.2019			27.90%
4.	Bhogaon Khurd to Khawati section	14.04.2021			12.70%
5.	Kashedi to Parshuram Ghat section	31.01.2020			50.97%

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	ParshuramGhat-Arawali section	03.12.2019			22.00%
7.	Arawali - Kante section	12.11.2019	March, 2021		14.00%
8.	Kante-Waked section	12.11.2019			12.00%
9.	Waked-Talgoan section	31.01.2020			58.00%
10.	Talgaon to Kalmath section	04.12.2019			84.00%
11.	Kalmath to Zarap section	13.01.2020			84.00%

Issuing of driving licence to illiterate persons

936. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering issuing of driving licence to persons who are illiterate;

(b) if so, whether it is dangerous to allow a person to drive a vehicle who can not read and understand any instruction; and

(c) whether this decision has been taken after proper consultations?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) As per the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, passed in the Parliament recently and the provisions notified with effect from 1st September, 2019 the requirement of minimum educational qualification for driving a transport motor vehicle has been done away with. Ministry has notified for the omission of rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 vide GSR 681 (E) dated 23.09.2019, which provided for requirement of minimum educational qualification for driving a transport vehicle. Further, driving is a skill which is not dependent on educational qualification.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the process of finalisation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, detailed and numerous consultations with stakeholders were held. Further, the Bill was consulted and deliberated in detail in many meetings held by Department-