

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other strategies devised to encourage private players in the implementation of various highway projects, in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. NHAI has taken several steps to rekindle the interest of private investors and lenders in the Build-Operate- Transfer (BOT) projects which include:-

- (i) Policy of one time fund infusion to complete the projects.
- (ii) Policy of deferment of premium for financial stressed projects not able to meet subsistence revenue requirements.
- (iii) Policy of harmonious substitution for substitution of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in consultation with lenders and concessionaire subject to certain conditions.

Apart from above, a new mode "Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)" has been introduced where part construction cost is funded by NHAI and post construction, return of investor is assured through Annuities paid by Authority.

Further, NHAI is also trying to revive the private investments in the highway projects by amending the Model Concession Agreement for BOT model.

Quality of NHs constructed in Jharkhand

‡2537. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fundamental norms/criteria for the construction of National Highways (NHs) in a State like Jharkhand;

(b) whether the quality of NHs to be constructed in Jharkhand is at par with the highways being constructed/ already constructed in other States;

(c) whether the roads in the State of Jharkhand are being constructed according to National Standards, if not, the reasons therefor; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the justification for the unexpected delays in completion of NHs and not constructing them according to prescribed standards in the State of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Construction of National Highways (NHs) is done as per standards/norms specified in Codes of Practice published by Indian Road Congress (IRC) and Specifications for Road and Bridge Works of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir.

(d) Delay in completion of NH projects in State of Jharkhand is due to delay in Land Acquisition and Forest Clearance and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Activities.

Status of proposed highways in Bihar

†2538. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposed highways in the State of Bihar and the quantum of financial allocation approved in this regard; and

(b) the Total length of such highways?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) There are 55 number of National Highways covering a length of 5301 km in the State of Bihar. The fund of ₹ 1769.07 Crores has been allocated for development of National Highways during current financial year 2019-2020 under various heads by the Ministry.

Deadline for mandatory payment of tolls at NHs

†2539. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has again extended the deadline for mandatory FASTag for the purpose of payment of tolls on National Highways (NHs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.