

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1570
ANSWERED ON- 02/08/2021

HUGE DEBT AND LOSSES OF NHAI

1570. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether external borrowing of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) increased from ₹ 73,385 crore outstanding as on March, 2017 to ₹ 3,16,894 in March, 2021;
- (b) whether debt of NHAI has reached ₹ 3.17 trillion financial year 2021 up 27 percent from ₹ 2.49 trillion in March, 2020;
- (c) whether it is a fact that toll revenue decreased by 4 per cent to around ₹ 26,000 Cr.in Financial Year 2021;
- (d) whether NHAI has contingent liability of about 70,000 Cr. in arbitration and court cases; and
- (e) amount of interest paid in 2021 and mechanism by which NHAI will sustain huge debt?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) Since 2017, NHAI has availed external borrowing to the tune of ₹ 3,000 crore. Further, total borrowing of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) increased from ₹ 74,742 crore outstanding as on March 2017 to ₹ 3,06,704 crore in March 2021.
- (b) Debt of NHAI as on 31st March 2021 has reached ₹ 3.07 trillion, which is up by approximately 24 percent from ₹ 2.49 trillion in March 2020.
- (c) No, Sir. On the contrary, toll collection has increased by approximately 3.3 %.
- (d) As on date, there are 140 Arbitration Cases pending before various Arbitral Tribunals wherein amount of ₹ 91,875.70 Crore of the Contractors/Concessionaires claims and ₹ 44,600 Crore of NHAI's Counter Claims is involved for adjudication.

Further, there are 240 cases pending before Hon'ble Courts wherein ₹ 21,601 Crore is involved.

(e) Amount of interest paid in FY 2020-21 is ₹ 18,840 Crore.

Mechanism by which NHAI will do debt servicing and repayment is as under:

NHAI creates valuable road assets which are financially viable. Since 2017, NHAI has constructed total 17,042 km of public funded roads, with an expenditure of about Rs.4.08 lac crore. The completed public funded road assets are being tolled. NHAI is also monetizing the assets through ToT/ InVIT modes, to generate revenue for repayment of the loans and further construction. Since 2017, NHAI has serviced its Debt amounting to Rs 74,337 cr. The NHAI is doing regular exercise for balancing its assets and liabilities ensuring a sustainable debt level.