

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION – 739
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2023

COURT CASES AGAINST GOVERNMENT/NHAI

739 DR ASHOK BAJPAI:

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

- (a) number of cases pending in various High Courts relating to compensation for land acquisition against Government/NHAI wherein no response could be filed so far by the Government/NHAI;
- (b) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the Officers of the Government/NHAI to file responses in the pending cases before the High Courts within a fixed timeline;
- (c) if so, details of such instructions/office memorandums and the method of monitoring filing of responses in the High Courts; and
- (d) details of the efforts if any for resolution of land acquisition compensation disputes by the NHAI?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) A total of 1457 cases are pending in various High Courts relating to compensation for land acquisition against Government/NHAI wherein no response could be filed so far by the Government/NHAI.
- b) There is no delay in filing of replies. Therefore, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise. However, instructions have been issued to all concerned officers to file the response on behalf of Government/NHAI within the prescribed time limit in the matters pending before the High Courts.
- c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued instructions/guidelines regarding timely handling of court cases in which it has been instructed that the concerned field office of the Agency involved in the development and maintenance of National Highways, shall file a suitable Counter Affidavit in Court Cases, well before the date of hearing of the case before the Hon'ble Court and defend the case on behalf of Union of India.
- (d) Following efforts have been taken for resolution of land acquisition compensation disputes:
 - (i) Introduction of BhoomiRashi portal for online submission of LA notification for reducing the time in publication;
 - (ii) The payment of compensation for acquired land has been started through BhoomiRashi portal. This has brought transparency in payment of compensation;
 - (iii) Regular meetings with State Governments for speedy land acquisition and timely disbursement of compensation; and
 - (iv) frequent reviews of land acquisition projects for development of National Highways including disbursement of compensation, at various levels in the Ministry.
