

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1053
ANSWERED ON - 04/12/2024

LAND ACQUISITION PROTEST IN PUNJAB AND STALLING ROAD PROJECTS

1053. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are being taken to improve coordination between the Punjab Government and the Central Government on land acquisition and resolving protests;
- (b) whether the Centre has sought any specific assurances or actions from the Punjab Government to expedite stalled projects;
- (c) the steps being taken to protect the rights of landowners for legitimate protests without disrupting national infrastructure projects; and
- (d) the manner in which Government plans to balance infrastructure development with addressing local concerns and ensuring social justice?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a & b) Regular meetings are held with State Government Officers to address and resolve the land acquisition and other project-specific issues for timely completion of the projects. Centre-State co-ordination meetings are also held at Project Monitoring Group to resolve all the pending issues.

(c) Acquisition of land for National Highways is done under the provisions of Section 3 of National Highways Act, 1956 and the compensation for the same is determined as per the provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCLARR) Act, 2013. Section 3G (5) of National Highways Act, 1956 provides that the amount determined by the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition can be challenged by the landowners before the designated Arbitrator.

The Government has developed BhoomiRashi Portal as a single-point platform for Land Acquisition Notifications and payment of compensation directly into the accounts of the affected landowners. It has made the land acquisition process fast, transparent and stakeholder-friendly.

(d) National Highways are an important infrastructure for economic development & progress of a nation. Detailed Project Reports are prepared as per site conditions and alignments are approved after an evaluation of existing habitations, forests, protected sites and other vital infrastructures with minimal land acquisition. Government ensures fair compensation in accordance with applicable laws in case of land acquisition for the construction of highways.
