

Need to upgrade Akola-Nagpur and Akola-Khamgaon stretches of NH-53 to six laning road in Maharashtra-Laid

SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA): I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government towards upgrading four-lane highways into six-lane corridors where a minimum traffic volume of 20,000 PCUs is prescribed, and how many National Highway stretches across the country have been identified as eligible under this criterion. Further, I seek to know the major challenges being faced in implementing such projects, including land acquisition, environmental clearances, funding, and execution. I would also like to ask whether, if only a part of a highway stretch qualifies for upgradation ? especially high-density traffic sections near urban centres such as Nagpur ? the Government undertakes partial six-laning of such stretches. Lastly, I request the Hon^{ble} Minister to clarify whether the Akola-Nagpur and Akola-Khamgaon stretches of NH-53, particularly the sections near Nagpur (Gondkhairi Toll Plaza) on Nagpur Kondhali Section of NH 53, satisfy the prescribed PCU criteria for six-laning, and to provide the present status and likely timeline for their upgradation.