

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1389
ANSWERED ON - 11/02/2026

STATUS OF ROADS IN SOUTHERN PARTS OF ODISHA

1389. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that districts such as Gajapati, Malkangiri, Kandhamal and Rayagada continue to suffer from poor National and State Highway connectivity;
- (b) the details of highway projects sanctioned, delayed or stalled in these districts during the last two years;
- (c) whether land acquisition, forest clearance or fund delays have contributed to cost overruns and slow progress; and
- (d) what time-bound steps are being taken to improve road connectivity as a prerequisite for development in Odisha's tribal regions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) The Government in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) in the country. The planning and development of NHs is undertaken based on traffic demand, connectivity requirements, regional development considerations and the existing National Highway network, and accordingly the NH network in the concerned districts in the State of Odisha, have been planned to meet present connectivity needs. In the State of Odisha, the total length of National Highways is about 5,872 km, spread across all 30 districts. Out of this, the approximate National Highway length is 156 km in Gajapati, 143 km in Malkangiri, 233 km in Kandhamal and 109 km in Rayagada, aggregating to about 641 km in these four districts.
- (b) The details of NH projects sanctioned, delayed or stalled in the districts of Gajapati, Malkangiri, Kandhamal & Rayagada during last two years are annexed.

(c) Delays in land acquisition issues and forest clearances have impacted the pace of execution of certain projects and contributed to time overruns. Further, non-availability of funds and funding constraints have not contributed to slow progress or cost implications.

(d) Development of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process and planning is done to improve connectivity to aspirational districts, tribal districts, industrial centers, tourist centers, heritage sites, etc. Periodic meetings are being held at various levels to resolve issues hampering progress and to ensure timely improvement of road connectivity in these regions.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389 FOR 11-02-2026 ASKED BY DR. SASMIT PATRA REGARDING STATUS OF ROADS IN SOUTHERN PARTS OF ODISHA

S.N	Name of Project	District covered	Length (Km)	Date of sanction	Sanctioned cost (Cr.)	Status
1	Rehabilitation of Railway Over Bridge at Rayagada from km 202/175 to 202/790 and Nagavali River bridge from km 192/797 to 193/050 of NH-326 under item rate contract in the State of Odisha	Rayagada	0.830	18.11.2024	3.45	Under progress
2	Construction of bypass road to Rayagada town and J. K. Pur town on NH-326 in the state of Odisha on EPC mode under Annual Plan 2023-24.	Rayagada	12.72	17.10.2023	323.76	Under bid stage
3	Widening and strengthening of Daringbadi ghat portion from km 231.000 to 256.000 (Design chainage from km 229.500 to 256.468) of NH-59 on HAM in Annual Plan 2023-24 for the State of Odisha	Kandhamal & Ganjam	26.970	04.03.2024	718.26	Under bid stage
4	Construction of major bridge over Nagavali river on NH-326 at ch 192.380 in the state of Odisha on EPC mode for the year 2024-25	Rayagada	1.14	17.02.2025	30.42	Under bid stage
5	Construction of Mahendra Tanaya Bridge at km 92.250 on NH-326A in the state of Odisha on EPC mode for the year 2024-25	Gajapati	2.30	19.03.2025	53.37	Under bid stage
6	Balance work of construction of 5 HL bridge at km 379/010 (Pangam), km 439/400 (Potteru), km 444/237 (Kongurukonda), km 457/075 (MV-90), and km 468/150 (MV-96) on NH-326, along the Malkangiri-motu road in the state of Odisha on EPC mode under Annual Plan 2025-26.	Malkangiri	9.46	15.10.2025	80.16	Under bid stage
7	Construction of 5 HL Bridges at km 379/000 (Pangam), km 439/400 (Potteru), km 444/237 (Kongurukonda), km 457/075 (MV-90) and km 468/150 (MV-96) of NH-326 (Malkangiri-Motu Road) in the state of Odisha.	Malkangiri	9.72	31.03.2021	154.05	Due to slow progress of the contractor, the work has been terminated. Balance work has been sanctioned and is under bid stage.
