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NHAI ACHIEVES HIGHEST EVER CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN FY 2019-20

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Infrastructure: Roads

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

NHAI achieves highest ever Construction of National Highways in FY 2019-20

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NHAI has accomplished construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the financial Year 2019-20. This is the highest ever highway construction achieved in a financial year by NHAI. The construction pace as noticed in last years has seen a steady growth with 3,380 Km construction in the FY 2018-19. Continuing the same trend with the development of 3,979 km of national highways during FY 2019-20, NHAI has achieved an all-time high construction since its inception in 1995.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has envisaged an ambitious highway development programme *Bharatmala Pariyojana* which includes development of about 65,000 km national highways. Under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana, the Ministry has approved implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years with an outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore. NHAI has been mandated development of about 27,500 km of national highways under *Bharatmal Pariyojna* Phase-I.

In order to accelerate the pace of construction, large no. of initiatives have been taken to revive the stalled projects and expedite completion of new projects:

- Streamlining of land acquisition and acquisition of major portion of land prior to invitation of bids.
- Award of projects after adequate project preparation in terms of land acquisition, clearances etc.
- Disposal of cases in respect of Change of Scope (CoS) and Extension of Time (EoT) in a time bound manner
- Procedure for approval of General Arrangement Drawing for ROBs simplified and made online.
- Close coordination with other Ministries and State Governments
- One time fund infusion
- Regular review at various levels and identification/ removal of bottlenecks in project execution
- Proposed exit for Equity Investors
- Securitization of road sector loans

• Disputes Resolution mechanism revamped to avoid delays in completion of projects.

RCJ/MS

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