

Roads and Bridges in Himachal Pradesh

1. During the First Five-Year Plan (1951-56), "Roads" were given highest priority. During this period, Rs. 225.41 lakh were spent on the development of roads, which amounted to 42.75% of the total plan investment of Rs. 527.25 lakh. With this investment, the state achieved an additional 2413 K.M. length of roads. The progress made in the development of roads by 1971 at the time of formation of a full-fledged State and level reached by the end of Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans and achievements made by the end of 31st March, 2009 is given in the following table:-

Road Construction in Himachal Pradesh

(Position given is by the end of Five Year/ Annual Plan period)

| Sr. No | Description | Unit | 1971 | 6 th Plan 1980-85 | 7 th Plan 1985-90 | 8 th Plan 1992-97 | 9 th Plan 1997-02 | 10 th Plan 2002-07 | 31 st March 2009 |
|---|------------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
| 1. | Motorable roads | Kms | 7609 | 14663 | 16883 | 19760 | 22763 | 27584 | 30302 |
| 2. | Roads provided with cross drainage | Kms | 2755 | 6245 | 7493 | 8917 | 11697 | 17250 | 20748 |
| 3. | Metalled and tarred length | Kms | 2218 | 5300 | 6392 | 8094 | 11441 | 15772 | 17291 |
| 4. | Bridges | No. | 232 | 598 | 742 | 968 | 1206 | 1483 | 1604 |
| 5. Villages connected with Roads | | | | | | | | | |
| | (a) Above 1500 population | No. | - | 165 | 175 | 184 | 186 | 199 | 202 |
| | (b) 1000-1500 population | No. | - | 198 | 214 | 223 | 224 | 239 | 262 |
| | (c) 500-1000 population | No. | - | 756 | 809 | 827 | 849 | 977 | 1151 |
| | (d) 200-500 population | No. | - | 2324 | 2413 | 2479 | 2588 | 2848 | 3092 |
| | (e) Less than 200 population | No. | - | 3640 | 3805 | 3914 | 4063 | 4268 | 4536 |
| | Total (5) | | | 7083 | 7416 | 7627 | 7910 | 8531 | 9243 |

2 Besides increase in the motorable road density from 13.66 Kms. per 100 sq. kms. of area in 1971 to 40.89 kms. between 1971-2002, the quality of this crucial infrastructure has also improved significantly. Whereas only 29.14% of the motorable roads were metalled and tarred in 1971, the percentage at the end of March, 2009 stands at 57.06%. Similarly, the percentage of roads with cross drainage increased from 36.2% in 1971 to 68.47 % by the end of March, 2009.

3 The following data depicts the position of road length from 1971 to 2009: -

Road Length in Himachal Pradesh

| Type of Road | Position as on 31 st March | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2002 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. |
| (a) Motorable Double lane | 1765 | 1994 | 1994 | 2332 | 2336 | 2374 | 2374 | 2377 |
| (b) Motorable Single lane | 5844 | 10611 | 15296 | 19874 | 20427 | 25210 | 26783 | 27925 |
| Total Motorable roads | 7609 | 12605 | 17290 | 22206 | 22763 | 27584 | 29157 | 30302 |
| (c) Jeepable | 608 | 633 | 826 | 906 | 781 | 381 | 365 | 345 |
| (d) Less than Jeepable (Track) | 2400 | 4195 | 4329 | 4105 | 3959 | 2299 | 1990 | 1803 |
| Total | 10617 | 17433 | 22445 | 27217 | 27503 | 30264 | 31512 | 32450 |