

CHAPTER IX

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION



The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force, partly integral to and in support of the Army. It started operations in May 1960 with just two projects Project Tusker (renamed Project Vartak) in the east and Project Beacon in the west. It has now grown into a 13-project executive force, supported by a well-organised recruiting/training centre and two well-equipped base workshops for overhaul of plant/equipment and two Engineer Store Depots for inventory management.

9.1.2 The BRO has not only linked the border areas of the north and north-east with the rest of the country, but has also developed the road infrastructure in Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh.

Functions of the BRO

9.1.3 The BRO was conceived of to construct and maintain roads in the border areas, classified as General Staff (GS) roads, in keeping with defence requirements. GS roads are developed and maintained through funds provided by the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB), through the Department of Road Transport and Highways.



Work in progress on Srinagar Bypass



9.1.4 Besides GS roads, the BRO also executes Agency Works, which are entrusted to it by other Central government ministries and departments. Works entrusted by public sector undertakings, state governments and other semi-government organisations are executed as Deposit Works. Over the years, the BRO has diversified into the construction of airfields, permanent steel and pre-stressed concrete bridges and accommodation projects.

Important Milestones

- The construction of the nine-km long Rohtang Tunnel, related access roads to its portals and a 292-km long alternate route to Leh, at an approximate cost of Rs 1,355.82 crore was entrusted to the Organisation. Work on this project commenced on 26 May 2002 and is scheduled to be completed by 2012.
- The BRO has been entrusted with the four-laning of NH-1A from Pathankot to Srinagar as part of NHDP's North-South corridor, on behalf of the NHAI. The cost of this project is estimated at Rs.83.88 crore and it is scheduled to be completed in 36 months. Work on the construction of a 17.20-km four-lane expressway from Pathankot to Jammu (NH-1A) is in progress.
- Part of Phase 'A' of the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE) has been entrusted to BRO. The work involves construction of new roads and improvement of existing roads to double lane standards under the phased programme. Widening of 487 kms roads with a rough cost of Rs 691 crore under Phase A and preparation of DPR for the roads earmarked in Phase B have been entrusted to BRO.
- The BRO has been entrusted with rehabilitation of roads in the Tsunami affected areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. An estimate amounting to Rs 14 crore for North South road has been submitted and a part sanction of Rs 2.18 crore has been accorded under job No 900/179 for this road. The work is in progress.

