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Speaker: The Honourable Geoff Regan

Infrastructure

Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, the minister and the Prime Minister have been announcing and reannouncing infrastructure projects across Canada for almost the past year now.

There are thousands of Canadians—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Deputy Speaker:

Order. I am sure it is not the intent to take away from the hon. member's time.

The hon. member for South Surrey—White Rock.

Ms. Dianne L. Watts:

Mr. Speaker, let me get to the end before members start clapping.

The minister and the Prime Minister have been announcing and reannouncing infrastructure projects across Canada for the past year. There are thousands of Canadians who want and need jobs.

Will the minister please tell Canadians exactly how many Liberal infrastructure projects have actual shovels in the ground and are under construction?

Hon. Amarjeet Sohi (Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, we are delivering on our commitments. Since taking office, we have approved over 900 projects, including more than 700 projects for budget 2016 funding for infrastructure. More than 60% of those projects are currently under way, improving transit systems, ensuring Canadians have safe and clean water to drink.

We will continue to work with our municipal, provincial, and territorial partners to deliver on the commitments we made to Canadians.

Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, again, the minister can talk about all of the planned projects, but what Canadians really care about is how many jobs have been created in their communities.

On the government's website, Canadians can clearly see that only six projects began construction this summer, six. These six projects are only worth \$8.5 million. Does the minister really think this is good enough when thousands of Canadians are out of work?

Hon. Amarjeet Sohi (Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to say that even in the hon. member's municipality we are investing money into the design and planning work that is currently under way, along with many other municipalities, to advance public transit, to do the work on waste water, as well as many other projects. Some 60% of the projects that we have approved under our new plan are currently under way.