

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to heavy rain on 16th and 17th June, 2011, huge mixture of mud and rock came down from hill side on the road bench at K.m.44 of NH-55. As a result newly built up road bench of about 250 mt length in Km.43,500 to 43.750 at Paglajhora area was completely washed out. Since then traffic movement in this stretch is completely cut off. Presently traffic is moving through Rohini road which alternatively connects Siliguri/Sukna (Km.69 of NH-55) - Kurseong (Km.32,6 of NH-55).

(c) to (f) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken to Repair NH-55 at Paglajhora

1. The Paglajhora area of NH-55 is highly unstable zone and sinking day by day. The road bench in this area was completely washed out in the year 1999 and again on 21st June, 2010. Ministry had sanctioned an estimate amounting to Rs.408.71 lakhs on 20.01.2011 to restore the road bench. The State PWD restored the road bench and road was opened to traffic on 14.4.2011. However, landslide occurred on 16th June, 2011 and benches in 250 mt. were completely washed off. This is a continuously sinking zone and require permanent restoration for stabilizing the steep hill slopes.
2. Consultancy service for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for rehabilitation and upgrading to 2 lane with/without paved shoulder configuration and strengthening of Salbari-Kurseong and Kurseong-Darjeeling (Km. 0 to 77) of NH-55 is taken up with World Bank Loan Assistance. The Consultant will also provide permanent restoration measures for this section. After detailed study, work will be taken up under National Highways Inter Connectivity Improvement Projects (NHIIIP) to be taken up with loan assistance of World Bank.

New alternative bridge over NH-31

†558. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct a new alternative bridge over NH-31, which goes to Duwars, Jalpaigudi Cooch Behar via Siliguri, is lying pending with Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, work of carrying out feasibility study for a bridge at Km.595 near Sevoke at Teesta river has been included in the current Annual Plan.

High toll charges in Andhra Pradesh

559. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the representation of Road Safety Forum that high tollages are collected from Andhra Pradesh by the NHAI as opposed to lower tollages from other States;

(b) the total tollages collected in Andhra Pradesh by NHAI in 2009-10;

(c) whether Government would revise the high tolls downward in sector and sector States where the tollage has been high;

(d) the measures proposed to ensure that tolls are reasonably priced and efficiently managed; and

(e) the reasons for high toll between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam on NH-5?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No Sir.

(b) The total toll collected in Andhra Pradesh by NHAI during 2009-10 is Rs. 323.69 crore.

(d) No Sir. The user fee is charged as notified by the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Rules, 2008 on 5.12.2008 as amended from time to time. The recent amendments include, bypass to be treated as a part of a section of national highway and tolled at rate of 1.5 time of the base rate, creating a separate category for 3-axle vehicle with user free base rate of Rs. 2.40 per km per vehicle per trip, a person, who owns a commercial vehicle (excluding vehicle playing under National Permit), registered with address on the Registration Certificate of a