

(d) the measures and action taken by Government with State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, is primarily responsible for development & maintenance of National Highways. District-wise number of wooden-bridges on National Highways, in Assam, are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of district	No
1	Hailakandi	12
2	Nagaon	4
3	NC Hills district	24
4	Chirang	1

(b) No, sir. Existing timber bridges are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available fund.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Replacement of all these timber bridges with permanent bridges are in various stages of progress.

#### Closure of NH 55

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that NH 55, which goes towards Darjeeling from Siliguri, is closed since last 16th June, 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to repair NH 55 at Paglajhora where a land-slide has taken place;

(d) the measures taken to avoid such incidents in future;

(e) whether Government is considering to give any package for repairing of highway NH 55; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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 (NHIIP) 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.