

to proceed further. Road transport being a State subject the responsibility for curbing the overloading of vehicles primarily rests with the State Governments. However, realizing the seriousness of the problem, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been emphasizing States/UTs from time to time for strict enforcement of the provisions of law to check the menace of overloading. National Highway Authority of India has also been asked to take strict action against truckers overloading on National Highways which may prove a deterrent measure.

Corruption cases against NHAI officials

1838. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of action taken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on allegation of World Bank for corruption against officials of NHAI; and
- (b) by when the NHAI is going to transfer field officials who have been working in a same State for more than five Years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have forwarded a report of the World Bank's Institutional Integrity unit alleging that some companies executing World Bank Funded projects have committed sanctionable practices. The matter is under examination.

(b) Transfer and postings of NHAI field officials are done based on the exigencies of the works from time to time.

Preference of surface water for drinking

†1839. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is encouraging the use of surface water over ground water for rural water supply for improvement in water quality; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation encourages

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.