

Cases of graft in highway project

604. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that as per World Bank's Institutional Integrity Unit Report there is huge case of graft in highways projects, such as contractors give bribes, gold coins to NHAI babus, etc. as reported in the Indian Express on 3 April, 2012;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry on this report and the contractors who are responsible for these acts;

(c) the details of contracts which are in question;

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance has also asked the Ministry to act promptly on this report; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA): (a) to (e) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have forwarded a report of the World Bank's Institutional integrity unit for appropriate investigation. World Bank's Institutional integrity unit in its report has alleged that some companies executing World Bank funded projects in respect of contract packages WB-9, WB-10, WB-12 under Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project (LMNHP) in the State of Bihar, contract package IVA under Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project (GTRIP) in the State of Uttar Pradesh & Bihar and contract package V-C under Third National Highways Project (TNHP) in the State of Jharkhand have committed sanctionable practices. Ministry had constituted a committee to conduct an enquiry and the committee had submitted its report. Accordingly, NHAI has been asked to verify the consequences occurred on the outcome of the projects in terms of quality or project completion and take appropriate action as per provisions of agreements with the contractors/supervision consultants. Further, NHAI has been asked to ascertain if there was any evidence of wrong doing or misconduct on part of any NHAI officials and take appropriate action as deemed fit as per service rules.

National Highways in Rajasthan

605. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: