

Repair of dilapidated National Highway-33

*331.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the dilapidated condition of the National Highway-33 from Ranchi to Mahulia and from Mahulia to Behragora, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the condition and allocated funds for its early repair, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether representation sent by the member on 18th December, 2013 in this regard has been considered, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Ranchi to Mahulia and Mahulia to Behragora section of NH-33 got dilapidated during prolonged rainy season and particularly due to Phailin Cyclone in the year 2013. Maintenance work on NH-33 has been taken up by the National Highway Authority in the stretches as under:

(i) Ranchi-Mahulia section of NH-33:

Four laning of Ranchi-Mahulia section of NH-33 has been awarded on Built Operate Transfer (BOT) Annuity mode and Appointed Date has been declared on 04.12.2012. As per Concession Agreement signed with the Authority, maintenance of the existing stretch is the responsibility of the concessionaire. Accordingly, the maintenance has been taken up by the Concessionaire and has been substantially completed. Overall maintenance work in the stretch is targetted to be completed by end of February, 2014. Out of total length of 163.5 km, four laning work has been taken up so far in 55 km stretch.

(ii) Mahulia-Behragora section of NH-33:

Four laning of Mahulia-Behragora section of NH-33 including Behragora-Kharagpur section of NH-6 has been awarded on BOT (Toll) basis. Appointed Date could not be declared due to delay in land acquisition, Forest and Environmental Clearance. As per the Concession Agreement, maintenance of the existing road till the appointed date is the responsibility of the authority. Accordingly, NHAI has sanctioned an amount of Rs.1434.60 lakhs for repairing

of the said stretch. Four laning work in this section could not be taken up due to non-declaration of Appointed Date.

(c) The stretches mentioned in the representation, has been duly considered and maintenance work has been taken up in all the stretches and substantially completed. The remaining works of maintenance are targeted for completion by the end of February, 2014.

FIRs against companies/contractors

*332. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies/contractors against whom FIRs have been filed for irregularities in internationally funded NH projects during the last three months till date;

(b) whether World Bank has blacklisted and banned some of the road construction companies and their associates during November, 2013 which had been awarded tenders for construction of NHs, due to irregularities by them, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would blacklist these companies and their associates from participating in any tender by NHAI, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No FIR has been filed against any company/contractor for irregularities in internationally funded NH projects during the last three months till date. However, the World Bank 'Integrity Vice Presidency (INT)' in its report dated 01.03.2012 had indicated that the Bank had found evidence that M/s. Progressive Construction Ltd (PCL) and M/s. PCL MVR(JV) had engaged in fraudulent and corrupt practices while executing three contract packages (WB-9, WB-10 and WB-12) in Bihar under Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway (LMNH) Project. Vigilance division, NHAI took over the investigation but in the meantime CBI-Anti Corruption Wing *vide* its letter dated 19.11.2012 requisitioned all the documents/records related to World Bank projects for packages WB-9, WB-10 and WB-12 for verification of source information received by them. CBI has registered two Preliminary Enquiries in the matter.