

>

Title: Regarding bad condition of National Highways in West Bengal.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are well aware, many National Highways cross our State, West Bengal. The most important National Highways in our State are NH-2, NH-31, NH-31D and NH-34. These stretches are very severely affected and damaged and have reached critical stage. Regarding the repair work on these National Highways, Secretary, PWD of the Government of West Bengal has been in constant touch with the NHAI authorities. The Chief Secretary, West Bengal has also on a few occasions written to Chairman, NHAI. Even the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, wrote to the hon. Prime Minister of India highlighting the negligence of repair and maintenance of national highways under NHAI in West Bengal, but there is no response.

These national highways are not kept in traffic worthy condition due to lack of or nil maintenance or improvement of works. The works on a number of National Highways Development Projects are under implementation for quite long time, for example National Highway Nos.60, 31, 55 and 117. Though India is having only one per cent of the vehicles of the world, ten per cent of the deaths are taking place in India because of bad conditions of our National Highways.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated to complete the pending projects, maintenance and improvement of the National Highways, new bridges on National Highways in West Bengal to stop accidents which invariably result in loss of lives.