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12016/1/08/NDMA

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**DAMAGE CAUSED TO OVER 150 NATIONAL HIGHWAY STRETCHES
BY FLOODS**

Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport
and Highways,

1. It has come to our notice from a newspaper clipping and some other sources that during the year 2007, severe damages were caused to over 150 stretches of National Highways due to severe flooding in various states of India. Approximate details are attaches at Annexure.

2. I would like to mention in this connection that the Planning Commission, in its recommendations had indicated that 10 percent of the available funds should always be earmarked for the purpose of disaster mitigation measures at construction stage. The National Disaster Management Authority has also covered this aspect in the 'National Disaster Management Guidelines: Management of Floods' released on 17th January, 2008, Page 30-31, Paras 3.2.10 and 3.3 of the guidelines are reproduced below for ready reference.

"3.2.10 The Ministry of Shipping, Roads Transport and Highways (MOSRTH), Ministry of Railways (MOR), Ministry of Defence (MOD), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and state governments will ensure that national highways, state highways, district and other roads are aligned, located and designed properly with respect to height and width and provided with adequate waterway in the form of vents, culverts, bridges and causeways so as to make them flood safe and not increase the vulverability of the area to flooding and drainage congestion.

"The safety of existing road/railway embankments against floods will also be checked by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defence, National Highway Authority of India, Border Road Organisation and state governments and if found inadequate, measures by way of increasing height and width and augmenting waterway by constructing additional bridges/ culverts/ causeways or by adding more spans to existing ones, will be taken up."

“3.3 The NDMA/MHA proposes to take up with the Thirteenth Finance Commission the need for earmarking adequate funds for maintenance of the dams, embankments, levees and twon protection works under appropriate heads of account in plan/non-plan budgets.”

3. I am also enclosing a copy of the National Disaster Management Guidelines: Guidelines on Flood Managemnt for your perusal.

4. The National Highways play a very vital role in providing communication for the easy and uninterrupted movement of men and material to the disaster affected areas. Consequently, it is important that these highways are built and maintained to a standard which will be generally flood proof and not subject to easy disruption or destruction due to floods.

5. I shall be grateful if necessary steps are taken by your Ministry (MOST) to repair and restore the damaged stretches. It will also greatly help if the ministry also kindly ensure that the National Highways are planned and built in a manner which make them resilient to disasters and hence safe from floods.

*Ps: You may kindly ~~also~~ have a check done
 in the veracity of this info to establish the right facts.
 with profound regards
 Yours sincerely
 H. J. Singh*

Shri T. R. Baalu

Hon'ble Ministe of Shipping,
 Road Transport & Highways
 Government of India

Encls : Details of National Highways submerged during floods in 2007
 (Annexure).