

# State ropes in defence units to repair six major bridges in flood-hit zone

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**PATNA:** The road construction department (RCD) has sought help of the Indian Army and another agency of the defence ministry, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSEL), Kolkata, to repair at least six major bridges damaged in the flooded Araria, Purnia and Kishanganj districts.

RCD minister Nand Kishore Yadav said the Army's unit had already visited Baigachhi spot of Galgalia-Araria stretch of NH 327E and would commence repair of the reinforced concrete cement (RCC) bridge. "Two spans of the bridge have been damaged near Baigachhi," said the minister.

"Besides, GRSEL engineers have been requested to repair other bridges. Apart from Baigachhi, three other bridges in Araria (near Bairia, Araria town and Nasir Chowk) have suffered extensive damages. About 50 metre stretch of Amour-Bahadurpur-Dighal Bank road in Purnia has been washed away near Sisha Bari while 45-metre stretch of Kishanganj-Bahadurpur road has been damaged near Singal Bari," said the min-



■ CPI-ML legislators demonstrating at the assembly, in Patna on Tuesday.

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ister.

Officials of the RCD said the department has approach the BRSEL, as it keeps prefabricated bridges in store for immediate repairs. Engineers of RCD are working in tandem with Army and BRSEL to ensure quick restoration of traffic on damaged bridges.

The minister said as many as 203 roads, including those of state highways and major district roads, had suffered exten-

sive damages in 13 flood-hit districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia, Katihar, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, West and East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Supaul.

"About 95% of breached portion of the roads have been filled with bricks and other solid materials to restore traffic. However, regular repair of the damaged roads will begin after Dussehra and will be completed by March



➤ About 95% of breached portion of roads have been filled with bricks, other solid materials to restore traffic. Regular repairs will begin after Dussehra and be completed by March 2018.

NAND KISHORE YADAV, RCD min

2018," said the minister, adding that the state government was in touch with regional officers of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and ministry of road transport and highways (MORTH) for repair of the roads under their control.